"To Kill a Mockingbird," written by Harper Lee, is a novel set in the 1930s in the fictional town of Maycomb, Alabama. The novel explores themes of racial injustice, moral growth, and the loss of innocence, ultimately teaching that empathy and understanding are crucial in overcoming prejudice. The central plot revolves around Atticus defending a black man, Tom Robinson, who is falsely accused of raping a white woman, Mayella Ewell.