

October 29, 2018

Dear Harper Lee,

Your novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* really impacted my point of view of others and the world around me. It made me feel like I was right there with Scout throughout the book. It helped me understand just how bad segregation really was despite the laws making it illegal. The language used and how young Jem and Scout were, given the challenges they faced, surprised me. Overall, I really enjoyed the novel.

As I began reading the novel, I found it really hard to get in to. At first, I had to make myself read a few chapters and then ponder their meanings so that I could understand it better as a whole. While I was reading your novel by myself, my seventh grade class was reading a different novel, *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry. I split my spare time reading both books, but as I began to get past the introduction in your novel, I noticed myself wanting to read it more than *Gathering Blue*.

I could relate to Scout because she basically lives outside during the summer months and I did too when I was her age. I thought it was nice that Dill and Jem let Scout play with them, even when they didn't want to or she was being "too slow."

I did feel bad that Atticus had to raise his two children on his own, but was glad that Calpurnia was able to act as a mother figure. At first I thought that Calpurnia was Jem and Scout's mother because of how well she took care of them and met their needs just like a mother would do. My teacher then explained to me that Calpurnia was only the Finch's cook, not their mother. Elaborating on how Calpurnia was able to be a stand in as Jem and Scout's mother, I loved the fact that she took them to her black only church. Many cooks would not have done that for the people they worked for, even if they weren't black. I thought the way Calpurnia urged Scout to start becoming a young lady but didn't force it on her was amusing because of the way Scout would humorously and wittingly retort. Calpurnia's character added a very personal touch to the novel that I thought added to the depth of its overarching meaning.

I want you to know that your novel has changed my perception on issues bigger than I can even begin to imagine. I was looking to broaden my horizon and decided to read your novel and am so glad I did. It taught me a long list of vocabulary words too. Thank you for writing this beautiful novel so that everyone that read it could enjoy it.

Sincerely,

Alex Walker