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ratings The Quill Award for Audio Book (2006) Pulitzer Prize is a U.S. award for achievements in newspaper and online journalism, literature and musical composition. It was established by Hungarian-American publisher Joseph
Pulitzer and is administered by Columbia University in New York City. According to the administrators of the Pulitzer Prize are awarded yearly in twenty-one categories. In twenty of these, each winner receives a certificate and a US$10,000 cash award. The
winner in the public service category of the journalism competition is awarded a gold medal, which always goes to a newspaper, although an individual may be named in the citation. aliases Jean Louis Finch edit descriptions of this character Today marks the 210th anniversary of Napoleon's final defeat at the Battle of Waterloo, ending 23 years of
recurrent warfare between France and the other powers of Europe. Although the word Waterloo has become synonymous with "a crushing defeat," the battle and its run-up were more nuanced, a result of myriad social and political factors beyond Napoleon's strategic missteps. On a related note, today is also the anniversary of the start of the War of
1812, which arose chiefly from U.S. grievances over Britain's oppressive maritime practices during the Napoleonic Wars. How Napoleon Became a Legend Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc. On this day in history, Joan of Arc led the French army to a decisive victory, and the Anglican Communion elected its first female churchwide leader. Joan of ArcJoan
of Arc led the French army against the English at Patay, France, on June 18, 1429. Joan had promised success to the French, saying that it would win a greater victory that day than any won so far. The victory was indeed complete: the English army was routed and with it, finally, its reputation for invincibility. Katharine Jefferts
SchoriPrelate Katharine Jefferts Schori was elected presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America, becoming the first woman chosen as a churchwide leader in the 400-year history of the Anglican Communion. © G. Dagli Orti—DeAgostini/Getty Images Popular ProCon Debate Topics Britannica's content is among the mos
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cutoff year of the award are not eligible for consideration. An author's body of work is ineligible. An editor or translator may be considered if the book is of value to the permanent record of the State. The honoree must be living. From the ALABAMA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, INC. Handbook, p. 32. ...more An Art, A Craft, A Mystery: A Novel-in-Verse by
4.12 avg rating — 24 ratings Alabama Author Award for Poetry (2024) The Late Americans by 3.35 avg rating — 8,314 ratings Alabama Author Award for Fiction (2024) South to America Author Award for Poetry (2024) The Late Americans by 3.35 avg rating — 8,314 ratings Alabama Author Award for Fiction (2024) The Late Americans by 3.35 avg rating — 8,314 ratings Alabama Author Award for Fiction (2024) The Late Americans by 3.97 avg rating — 8,314 ratings Alabama Author Award for Fiction (2024) The Late Americans by 3.97 avg rating — 8,314 ratings Alabama Author Award for Fiction (2024) The Late Americans by 3.97 avg rating — 8,314 ratings Alabama Author Award for Fiction (2024) The Late Americans by 3.97 avg rating — 8,314 ratings Alabama Author Award for Fiction (2024) The Late Americans by 3.97 avg rating — 8,314 ratings Alabama Author Award for Fiction (2024) The Late Americans by 3.97 avg rating — 8,314 ratings Alabama Author Award for Fiction (2024) The Late Americans by 3.97 avg rating — 8,314 ratings Alabama Author Award for Fiction (2024) The Late Americans by 3.97 avg rating — 8,314 ratings Alabama Author Award for Fiction (2024) The Late Americans by 3.97 avg rating — 8,314 ratings Alabama Author Award for Fiction (2024) The Late Americans by 3.97 avg rating — 8,314 ratings Alabama Author Award for Fiction (2024) The Late Americans by 3.97 avg rating — 8,314 ratings Alabama Author Award for Fiction (2024) The Late Americans by 3.97 avg rating — 8,314 ratings Alabama Author Award for Fiction (2024) The Late Americans by 3.97 avg rating — 8,314 ratings Alabama Author Award for Fiction (2024) The Late Americans by 3.97 avg rating — 8,314 ratings Alabama Author Award for Fiction (2024) The Late Americans by 3.97 avg rating — 8,314 ratings Alabama Author Award for Fiction (2024) The Late Americans by 3.97 avg rating av
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Award for Nonfiction (2020) Becoming Mrs. Lewis by 4.05 avg rating — 47,606 ratings Alabama Author Award for Fiction (2019) The Best Cook in the World by 4.20 avg rating — 3,430 ratings Alabama Author Award for Fiction (2019) Journey's
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Author Award for Young Adult (2018) The Generals: Patton, MacArthur, Marshall, and the Winning of World War II by 4.31 avg rating — 1,613 ratings Alabama Author Award for Nonfiction (2018) « previous 1 2 3 4 5 6 next » edit descriptions of this character edit descriptions of this character Summer's over, and Dill heads back home to
Meridian. The narrator looks forward to joining the kids at school for the first time instead of spying on them through a telescope like a pint-size stalker. Jem takes the narrator to school, and explains that it's different from home—and he doesn't want his first-grade sibling cramping his fifth-grade style. The narrator's teacher is a young woman by the
name of Miss Caroline Fisher, who's from North Alabama, otherwise known to the native Maycombians as Crazy Land. Miss Caroline reads the class a story about cats and seems blithely unaware that she's already completely lost her audience, a bunch of farm kids who the narrator says are "immune to imaginative literature" (2.8). Miss Caroline puts
the alphabet up on the board. All of the class already knows it. Amazing! Is it a class full of geniuses? Nope. Most of them are starting first grade for the second time. Miss Caroline asks the narrator to read, and is not pleased that she's already good at it. See, the teacher assumes that Atticus has taught the narrator how to read. Apparently, these
lessons must stop because Atticus isn't a licensed teacher and therefore is doing his child more harm than good (even though she's already a fluent reading, which seems to come as naturally as breathing, is something like a sin when it's done out of
class.Trying to stay out of further trouble, the narrator zones out till recess, then complains to Jem.Jem says that Miss Caroline is at the center of educational reform in the school, which he calls "the Dewey Decimal System" (2.25). This new system results in boring class time, so the narrator starts writing (in cursive) a letter to Dill. Miss Caroline
makes the narrator stop, saying that first graders print, and cursive isn't taught until third grade. The narrator remembers that Calpurnia had passed rainy days by giving writing lessons. Miss Caroline is halted in her inspection of her students' lunches by Walter Cunningham, who doesn't have one. She tries to lend him a quarter for lunch, but he
refuses to take it. The narrator, whose name we now learn is Jean Louise, steps in, explaining to Miss Caroline that Walter is a Cunningham. That explanation, crystal clear to Jean Louise, steps in, explaining to Miss Caroline, so she explains further: the Cunninghams won't take anything from anybody, preferring to get by on the little they
have. Flashback: Jean Louise knows about the Cunninghams because Walter's father hired Atticus for some legal work, and paid for the service by barter rather than in cash. Back to the schoolroom present: Jean Louise wants to explain but can't, so she just says that Miss Caroline is making Walter ashamed by trying to lend him money he can't pay
back. Miss Caroline cracks at this, and calls Jean Louise up to the front of the class, where she pats her hand with the ruler and makes her stand in the corner. The bell rings and everyone leaves for lunch. Miss Caroline collapses with her head
in her hands at her desk. edit descriptions of this character This section contains 239 words (approx. 1 page at 300 words per page) Dill left soon after that to go back to Meridian, and it was time for Scout to go to school for the first time. She had been waiting her whole life to go to school, but it turned out to be a great disappointment. Miss Caroline
Scout's very young first grade teacher from North Alabama, was surprised to find that Scout could read very well and even write in cursive. Rather than being proud of her or excited about such a bright pupil, Miss Caroline told Scout that she was not allowed to read with her father anymore because Atticus didn't know how to teach. Scout was
crushed. Then, just before lunch, Scout tried to helpfully explain to Miss Caroline that Walter Cunningham did not have a lunch with him because he was poor. Scout knew that because the Cunningham's didn't borrow
what they couldn't pay back. Scout was educated on the Cunningham's particular situation because Atticus with farm goods rather than money. Miss Caroline, however, thought Scout was just being rude, so she swatted her hand with a
ruler and made her stand in the corner. Scout was exiled there until the lunch bell rang. Topic Tracking: Innocence 1 Copyrights To Kill a Mockingbird from BookRags. (c) 2025 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved. Awards recognizing distinction in audiobooks and spoken word entertainment sponsored by the Audio Publishers Association (APA). websites
Awards recognizing distinction in audiobooks and spoken word entertainment sponsored by the Audio Publishers Association (APA).website: ...more Nothing: John Cage and 4'33" by 4.20 avg rating — 82 ratings Audie Award for Young Adult Award for Young Award f
(2025) Lone Wolf (Orphan X, #9) by 4.34 avg rating — 71,156 ratings Audie Award for Short Stories/Collections (2025) The Book of Doors by 4.04 avg rating — 73,246 ratings Audie Award for Science Fiction (2025) This Could Be Us (Skyland, #2) by
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11,390 ratings Audie Award for Young Listeners (2024) This Terrible True Thing: A Visual Novel by 4.41 avg rating — 1,683 ratings Audie Award for Short Stories/Collections (2024) Cassandra in Reverse by 3.57 avg rating — 52,205
ratings Audie Award for Science Fiction (2024) « previous 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ... 32 33 next » Jump to ratings and reviewsOne of the best-loved stories of all time, To Kill a Mockingbird has been translated into more than forty languages, sold more than forty million copies worldwide, served as the basis for an enormously popular motion picture, and was
voted one of the best novels of the twentieth century by librarians across the country. A gripping, heart-wrenching, and wholly remarkable coming-of-age tale in a South poisoned by virulent prejudice, it views a world of great beauty and savage iniquities through the eyes of a young girl, as her father — a crusading local lawyer — risks everything to
defend a black man unjustly accused of a terrible crime. 94076 people want to readNelle Harper Lee was an American novelist whose 1960 novel To Kill a Mockingbird won the 1961 Pulitzer Prize and became a classic of modern American niterature. She assisted her close friend Truman Capote in his research for
the book In Cold Blood (1966). Her second and final novel, Go Set a Watchman, was an earlier draft of Mockingbird, set at a later date, that was published in July 2015 as a sequel. The plot and characters of To Kill a Mockingbird are loosely based on Lee's observations of her family and neighbors in Monroeville, Alabama, as well as a childhood event
that occurred near her hometown in 1936. The novel deals with racist attitudes, the irrationality of adult attitudes towards race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s, as depicted through the eyes of two children. Lee received numerous accolades and honorary degrees, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2007, which was awarded for
her contribution to literature. Displaying 1 - 30 of 127,315 reviewsOctober 22, 20242024: Each time I read what PBS dubs the perfect American novel, my heart fills just a little more. There are few books where the beginning paragraphs hit a home run for me, and this is one of them. It has been a long month filled with family time and endless cooking
so for the last ten days I opted for comfort reads and there is no family who provides comfort like the Finches, with the exception of Aunt Alexandra. "Lawyers were children once," quotes Charles Lamb in the opening epithet. Prior to this reading, I viewed Atticus Finch as an unapproachable, older father. Beloved by his children to the point of
idolization, but with an impenetrable outer skin. As an adult looking back at the events which shaped the novel, Scout paints the picture of her father as one who makes everything right and makes her feel safe. Even though this novel had been marketed for adults, it is in its essence a coming of age novel, which shows Scout's growth through
elementary school while her family faces events that mean to alter the history of a town. Atticus would need to be a strong figure to guide his children through the plot, and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot, and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot, and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot, and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot, and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot, and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot, and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot, and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot, and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot, and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot, and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot, and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot, and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot, and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot, and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot and he would need to wistfully remember his children through the plot and he wistfully remember his children th
Until today, I never viewed Atticus as multi-faceted, just a great man. Today that view slightly changed, yet he remains one of my top personas of all time. Pestering Boo Radley is like killing a mockingbird, Scout implores Atticus. He never did anyone harm. There is a reason why this novel won the Pulitzer as being ahead of its time. The beginning and
ending paragraphs mirror each other and provide closure. Scout and Dill engage in childhood escapades while learning life lessons imparted on them by their neighbors. Jem believes that the story began the summer Dill came and he tried to make Boo Radley come out. Being four years Scout's senior at the time, he already saw the events of the novel
from an adult perspective. Scout and Dill did not. They started as innocent seven year olds who thought that they would get married one day and ended as empathetic individuals who wanted to change the world. Perhaps Atticus' lessons had penetrated these children after all; Scout, at least, looked like a lawyer in the making. If the world changed in
her lifetime, perhaps she would get that opportunity. With a book as perfect as this one, it comes as little wonder to me that Harper Lee never published another in her lifetime. She became a recluse; perhaps she modeled Boo Radley after her own tendencies. Boo did not come out because he did not want to. I am of the camp who is 99.9% sure to
never read Go Set a Watchman. To Kill a Mockingbird is practically perfect in every way and made to change the way a nation thought about groups of people. Harper Lee had as much courage in publishing it pre- Civil Rights Act as the characters in her novel did in living with there preconceived notions of how the world functions. Bravery, courage,
and empathy remain the overarching motifs in this great American novel. I view it as the ultimate comfort read and infinitely more to be written in the future, it is rare occasion that I take the time to reread a novel. As women's history month is upon us
(2019), I have kept revising my monthly lineup to feature books by remarkable women across the spectrum. Yet, none of these nonfiction books the memoirs, the prose focuses on the author's achievements in her chosen field. Last week a goodreads friend and I paid tribute to women authors
in a daily literary journal. In one of my friend's posts, she pointed out that as recently as 1960, the author of the most endearing of American novels had to use a masculinized version of her name in fear of not being published. Nelle Harper Lee of Monroeville, Alabama published To Kill a Mockingbird under her middle name, so only those well read
readers are aware of the author's full name. It is in this regard, that I included Pulitzer and Presidential Medal of Freedom winner Nelle Harper Lee in my Women's History month lineup. It is as auspicious of a time as any to reread one of America's greatest novels. When I was in ninth grade English class, I read Harper Lee's novel for the first time.
At age fourteen I was hardly a polished writer and struggled with many of the assignments. Yet, I do remember that the top essay in the class focused on the overarching theme of courage and how Harper Lee showed how each of the characters, major and minor, embodied this trait in the trying times associated with the novel. It was courageous of a
southern woman to write a novel with this subject matter prior to the passage of the civil rights act. It is of little wonder to me looking back now that she chose to publish under a gender neutral name. Perhaps, she feared a lynch mob or being outcast in her home town. It was a trying time as the federal government asserted itself against states still
grieving from the war between the states and holding out as the last bulwarks of white superiority. Harper Lee exhibited as much courage as the characters in her novel, and rightfully was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for her work. As such, being courage as the characters in her novel, and rightfully was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for her work.
still saw themselves as superior to blacks, and few, if any, had the audacity to take a black's word over a white's even if it were the correct moral thing to do. Yet, the crux of Lee's novel is a court case threatening to disrupt this way of life, having the town divide along both racial and moral lines, and having each character step into others' shoes and
view the world from another's perspective. Maycomb at the time embodied many rural American cities, isolated from progress as town set in its ways with few people who were willing to see the world from another perspective. One man was, however, a lawyer named Atticus Finch who is among the most revered fictional characters ever created.
Even though this court case should not have been his, his superiors selected Atticus to counsel a black defendant because they realized that he was at home
and had nothing to fear. A widower, he instilled these values to his children Jeremy Atticus (Jem) and Jean Louise (Scout) from a young age, passing a strong moral compass onto his children. In addition to critiquing southern race relations, Lee's novel has endeared itself to children with the legend of Boo Radley. From the time they were young, Jem,
 Scout, and their summer friend Dill had courage to go to the Radley house trying to get Boo to come out even though all the other kids said the house was spooked. Atticus told them to put a halt to these childish games and explained Boo Radley's background to them. The town claimed that Boo Radley was a ghost, but perhaps the reason he did no
leave the house is because he did not want to. As the children grew older, Atticus warned them that there would be darker times ahead and they would have to be courageous in the face of what people said to them behind their backs. From the time Scout began school in first grade, she inhibited Atticus' ability to stand up for what was right. Her
teacher Miss Robinson was new to Maycomb and did not understand people's ways. Scout explained about the Cunninghams, the Ewells, as well as other families at a personal cost to herself. As Scout grew older and was able to step into other people's ways.
differences did not make the world distinctly black and white or right and wrong. During an era when children were looked upon as unintelligent, Scout and Jem were wise beyond their years and following in their father's footsteps. Harper Lee created strong archetypal characters and had each embody their own courage. Each's courage allowed
Atticus to teach his children a life lesson that would endure for the rest of their lives. The family's neighbor Mrs. Henry Lafayette DuBose demonstrates courage as she battles a final illness. Third grade teacher Mrs. Gates exhibits courage as she battles a final illness. Third grade teacher Mrs. Gates exhibits courage as she battles a final illness. Third grade teacher Mrs. Gates exhibits courage as she battles a final illness.
themselves about the differences between prejudices at home and abroad. The African American characters all demonstrate strong courage as well. The Finch's housekeeper Calpurnia is a bridge between the white and black communities of Maycomb and does not hesitate to teach Scout and Jem life lessons as they arise. The Reverend Sykes
welcomes Jem and Scout into his congregation as though they were his own and invites them to sit in the colored balcony at time when segregation was still the law. He risked a lynching and knew that the Finch family could possibly be labeled as negro lovers, yet Reverend Sykes played a small role in proving that one's skin color should not
determine whether someone is right or wrong. Of course, as part of the overarching story line, Boo Radley can be viewed as the most courageous character of them all. It is through the courage of an author to create characters who will stand up for what is morally right at a large cost to themselves that she created an award winning novel that was
ahead of its time for its era. It is little wonder that the courage exhibited by all these characters has made the novel as beloved as it is today. I believe that the courage exhibited by all these characters has made the novel as beloved as it is today. I believe that the courage of these fictional characters has made the novel as beloved as it is today. I believe that the courage exhibited by all these characters has made the novel as beloved as it is today. I believe that the courage of these fictional characters has made the novel as beloved as it is today. I believe that the courage exhibited by all these characters has made the novel as beloved as it is today. I believe that the courage exhibited by all these characters has made the novel as beloved as it is today.
courage to stand up for what they think is right or to fight against those tougher than them. This character trait has endeared the Finch family to millions of readers and will continue to do so for generations to come. Whenever a person asks what book would you give as a gift or what is the perfect book, To Kill a Mockingbird is my first choice. I find
that it is perfect for any time but most appropriate in spring as in addition to courage there is an underlying theme of hope. Harper Lee won the Pulitzer for this timeless classic, and it also won first place in the Great America's best novel. Thus I can think of no better way to honor women's history month than with a timeless book
that has and will continue to capture the hearts and minds of all of its readers. 5+ stars/ all-time favorites shelf500-great-books-women all-time-favorites classics March 24, 2022/// gentle reminder that this is not the time to read this book ///This is my first re-read of 2017, and I don't regret it one bit. When I first read this book three years ago, I really
liked it. Sadly, I didn't write my thoughts down in an elaborate way back in the day, but I know for sure, that I didn't read criticism is not a critique of the book itself, but about its perception, and how it is, up to this day, held up as the
one true book about race relations in the United States of America. And that really infiruates me. This book was written by a white woman, from a white enabled class. This book gives comfort to the white middle class. Comfort that they, especially
back in the 1960s, didn't need, and allow me to be so bold, didn't deserve. Harper Lee's focus is purely white. While the white characters in this book are objects. They have little to no agency. Things happen to them. They are
harmless, defenseless, and just there - waiting for the white knight hero, Atticus Finch, to save them. This book is a disgrace in the face of the Black liberation movements that existed back in the day, and the solidarity within Black communities. Black people stood up for themselves and fought for their rights, and only due to their voices, their
protests, their sit-ins, their marches, their demonstrations, their demonstrations are demonstrations. The demonstration d
interviews on the Dick Cavett Show in 1968. One could say that this is Baldwin's response to the cry of "not all white people": James Baldwin: I don't know what most white people in this country feel. But I can only conclude what they feel from the state of their institutions. I don't know if white Christians hate Negroes or not, but I know we have a
Christian church which is white and a Christian church which is black. That says a great deal for me about a Christian nation. [...] I don't know whether the labor unions and their bosses really hate me - that doesn't matter - but I know I'm not [allowed] in their union. I don't know whether the real estate lobby has anything against black people, but I
know the real estate lobby is keeping me in the ghetto. I don't know if the board of education hates black people, but I know the textbooks they give my children to read and the schools we have to go to. Now, this is the evidence. You want me to make an act of faith, risking myself, my wife, my woman, my sister, my children on some idealism which
you assure me exists in America, which I have never seen. This right here is what I'm talking about. To Kill A Mockingbird plays into this idealism. Although the book touches on the horrors of racism in the Deep South, it's a strangely comforting read. A terrible injustice is done, but at the end the status quo is reassuringly restored. The final message
is that most (white) people are nice when you get to know them. As a reader you are never allowed to feel with Tom Robinson, the Black man who is innocently convicted for raping a white woman, because all the Black man who is innocently convicted for raping a white woman, because all the Black man who is innocently convicted for raping a white woman, because all the Black man who is innocently convicted for raping a white woman, because how else would you be able to convince the white
moderate (in the 1960s) that Black people are actually people. The closest insight we get to a Black character is the family's cook Calpurnia is in the fictional tradition of the "happy black", the contented slave - the descendent of the ever-loyal Mammy in Gone With the Wind. And the rest of the Black community is depicted as a group of
simple, respectful folk - passive and helpless and all touchingly grateful to Atticus Finch - the white saviour. We never see the effect of Tom Robinson's death on his family up close - we don't witness Helen, Tom's wife, grieving and Scout never wonders about his children. Their distress is kept at safe distance
from the reader. I was very angry after finishing this book, and I'm still angry up to this day. Not necessarily at Harper Lee, but at our society as a whole, and at our educational system. Why do we constantly uplift white narratives, whilst brushing over marginalized ones? Why aren't our kids reading If Beale Street Could Talk by James Baldwin - a
book dealing with the exact same topic (a Black man getting falsely accused of raping a woman)? Why isn't Lorraine Hansberry required reading? Why are we still relying on white narratives, when talking about Black people and their struggles? Since finishing this book, I started reading? Why are we still relying on white narratives, when talking about Black people and their struggles? Since finishing this book, I started reading? Why are we still relying on white narratives, when talking about Black people and their struggles?
wanted to share some interesting facts, because I couldn't believe how absurd To Kill A Mockingbird was. This story is, supposedly, set in the Deep South in the 1930s, where Atticus Finch, our white saviour, takes it upon himself to defend a Black man at court. By the end of Lee's novel we are led to believe that Atticus had a great chance of actually
getting Tom Robinson acquitted, if the latter had just been a "good n*gger" and didn't try to escape on his own. (Yes, I'm a little petty. I swear, I'm not turning bitter over this.) So, I just wanted to know how realistic that scenario is. All of the information is related to the 1930s Southern setting. Here's what I've learned: Most Southern lawyers readily
accepted Black clients for routine economic cases - property, tort, contract, dept, insurance - and minor criminal cases that did not threaten the South's system of racial hierarchy. It was virtually impossible, however, to find a Southern white lawyer who would accept a major criminal case involving a white victim or a politically charged case that in
any way challenged segregation. Only the combination of direct action, community organizing and legal strategy with the help of Black lawyers, made the defense of Black lawyers were able to defend the community's interests. In
1934, Black lawyers represented George Crawford, a Black man accused of brutally murdering a wealthy white woman - no white lawyer would take Crawford's case. In the end, Crawford got a sentence of life imprisonment instead of a death sentence. And this verdict had to be seen as an accomplishment by the Black lawyers and the Black
community as a whole, because life imprisonment was as good as it was going to get. Oftentimes, Black lawyers took serious criminal cases without a fee or at a very reduced rate. This was well appreciated by their communities, but also a given. It is admirable how well Black communities were organized. None of that got translated on the pages of
Lee's novel. The Black characters do absolutely nothing, except sending Atticus food, because they're so grateful. [*insert snort here*]This book appears to uphold the standard of racial equality; de facto it is about the white middle class patting themselves on the back for not thinking racist thoughts. I'm sorry to break it to you, Miss Maudie, but you
won't get a sugar cookie for that. I am not saying that this is not a realistic portrayal of the white middle class, it is, it totally is. If you do just a little research on the Civil Rights movement, the moral apathy of the white middle class, it is, it totally is. If you do just a little research on the Civil Rights movement, the moral apathy of the white middle class, it is, it totally is.
about them. After all... He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against is really cooperating with it.- Martin Luther King, Jr.May 24, 2011 6.0 stars. I know I am risking a serious "FILM AT 11" moment and a club upside the head from Captain Obvious for voicing
this, but nabbit dog I still think it needs to be said...TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD is one of the BEST and MOST IMPORTANT American novels ever written. Okay, I said it, and I will wait patiently while you get your DUHs and DERs out of the way and hang your "no shit" signs outside for Inspector Holmes.Okay, now given the gruntload of
reviews/ratings this book has I know I'm not the first person to wag my chin about how amazing it is. Still, I am going to chance coming off like that annoying dingleberry at the tail end of a huge porcelain party because I truly have a pile of love for this book. ...(Sorry for taking the metanalogy there just now, but I promise no more poop references for
the rest of the review)... So if my review can bring a few more people into the Atticus Finch Fan Club, I will be just flush with happy. On one level, this book is a fairly straight-forward coming of age story about life in a small Alabama town during the Great Depression. It has a very slice of lifesaver warmth and simplicity to it that I think resonates with
a lot of readers. It certainly does with me and I think the adjective "charm" may have been invented to describe the novel. Despite how easing flowing the narrative is, this book is both extremely and deceptively powerful in its discussion of race, tolerance and human decency. Most importantly, this book shows us by example the courage to stand all
up in the grill of injustice and say "Not today, Asshole! Not on my watch." That is a lesson that I think we can never be reminded of too often. When bad people do bad things to good people, the rest of us good people need to sack up and be counted regardless of how scary it might be. Easier said then done, I know. But at least that should be the
standard to which we strive. Atticus Fitch is the epitome of that standard. He is the role model to end all role models and what is most impressive is that he comes across as such a REAL person. There is no John Wayne/Jack Bauer/Dirty Harry cavalry charging BSD machismo about him. Just a direct, unflinching, unrelenting willingness to always do
what he thinks is right. As Atticus' daughter Scout puts it so well: It was times like these when I thought my father, who hated guns and had never been to any wars, was the bravest man who ever lived. I was to make something crystal before going on because it is an important part of my love of this story. Notwithstanding this book's powerful,
powerful moral message, it never once...ever...comes off as preachy or heavy handed. There is no lecture to be given here. The only sermon we are privy to is the example of Atticus Finch and the simple yet unwavering strength and quiet decency of the man. Even when asked by his daughter about the horrendous racism being displayed by the
majority of the townsfolk during a critical point in the story, Atticus responds with conviction but without: "They're certainly entitled to think that, and they're entitled to full respect for their opinions... but before I can live with other folks I've got to live with myself. The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience." This is a
special story. Oh, and as a huge bonus...it is also an absolute joy to read. Lee's prose is silky smooth and as cool as the other side of the pillow. Read it by yourself....read it the bigoted assclown that you work with or see around the neighborhood...Just make sure you read it. It is a
timeless classic and one of the books that I consider a "life changer." 6.0 stars. HIGHEST POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION!!!!BONUS QUOTE: This is Scout talking to Atticus after getting to know someone she had previously be afraid of: "When they finally saw him, why he hadn't done any of those things . . . Atticus, he was real nice. . . . 'His hands
were under my chin, pulling up the cover, tucking it around me. 'Most people are, Scout, when you finally see them.' He turned out the light and went into Jem's room. He would be there all night, and he would be there when Jem waked up in the morning." (Emphasis added) 1954-1969 6-star-books all-time-favorites December 10, 2020 Looking for a
new book but don't want to commit? Check out my latest BooktTube Video: One & Done - all about fabulous standalones! Now that you know this one made the list - check out the video to see the rest! The Written Review: If you haven't read this as an adult - pick it up today I think there's just one kind of folks. Folks. I (along with millions of other
kids) first read this in grade-school. And I (along with those millions) didn't really get the point. I remember thinking, Well... I already know discrimination is wrong. I don't get why I have to read a book about it... Oh Lordy, if I could go back in time... Rereading led to a (unsurprisingly) wholly different interpretation of this novel. I am in awe of Harper
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Lee and what she's written. How could I have so completely missed the point back in fifth grade? People generally see what they look for, and hear what they look for a manual they look for, and hear what they look for a manual they look

tell you something and don't you forget it—whenever a white man does that to a black man, no matter who he is, how rich he is, or how fine a family he comes from, that white man is trash My entire life, I never truly understood why this was such a classic, why people read it over and over, and why this (of all books) is forced upon kids year after year. I get it now. And I'm disappointed that I hadn't reread it sooner. P.s. Sorry to my teachers for being such a sulky kid - they sure picked a great one. I was just so enthralled with reading other things that I didn't read this one as well as I should've. Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing. Audiobook CommentsExceptionally well-read by Sissy Spacek. I felt like I was in the story. If you are itching for a reread - pick up To Kill A Mockingbird, I am instantly visited by a sensory memory: I'm walking home, leaves litter the ground, crunching under my feet. I smell the smoke of fireplaces and think about hot cider and the wind catches and my breath is taken from me and I bundle my coat tighter against me and I have this feeling that all is okay. Why? Why this memory? I mean, this takes place in Alabama and mostly in the summer, well there is that one climatic scene on Halloween, but I bet it's still hot enough to melt the balls off a brass monkey. It must be the school thing, my daughter just finished reading it, prompting me to give it another go, to fall back into Scout's world and pretend to be eight and let life simply be. How is that? How can life for Scout be simple? I mean, she lives in the south, during the depression, she has to deal with ignorant schoolmates... man, and I thought my childhood was rough. Still, she lives in this idyllic town, I mean, except for the racism and the creepy neighbors and the whole fact that it's, you know, the south...(forgive me... I'm not immune to the downfalls of the north, I mean, we had witches and well, Ted Bundy was born here...) But, there's this sense of childlike innocence to this book that makes me believe in humanity... even in the throes of evil. What am I saying here? I guess, that this is a good pick me up. What I also get from this book is that I have severe Daddy issues. I consume Atticus Finch in unnatural ways. He is the ultimate father; he has the perfect response for every situation. He is the transcendent character. My heart melts at each sentence devoted to him and I just about crumble during the courtroom scene. Am I gushing? I sure am. I was raised by a man who thought that Budweiser can artwork was the epitome of culture. That drinking a 6-pack was the breakfast of champions. That college was for sissies. He could throw out a racial slur without a single thought, care or worry to who was around. I won't even get into the debates/rantings of a 16 yr old me vs a 42 yr old him... What a role model. So, I thank Harper Lee for giving me Atticus. I can write this blurb that makes sense to maybe a handful but that is okay, I am approved of and all is good. December 17, 2020I had a much longer review written for this book, but the comments were sadly annoying me. so I'll just make my opinions clear in two sentences, because I do not care). most importantly, though, I don't believe a white savior narrative like this one is a story that should be so heavily defended by white people or pushed as an essential book in school curriculum today when there are better books about racism by people who have actually experienced it, and especially when this book cares more about the white characters than the Black ones! 2-star adult boring April 18, 2012While the plot was very gripping and well-written, the book didn't actually instruct me on how to kill a mockingbird. I bought this book intending to do away with this obnoxious bird that's always sitting in my backyard and making distracting noises. I had hoped this book would shed some light on how to humanely dispose of the bird, but unfortunately it was this story about a lawyer and a falsely-accused criminal. As I said, the plot is great but nowhere in the book does it say exactly how to kill a mockingbird. December 4, 2013 classics coming-of-age favorites May 4, 2015 In the course of 5 years, I've read this book nearly 17 times. That adds up to reading it once at least every 4 months, on an average. And I still return to this book like a bark seeking a lighthouse in the dark. When I first finished it, I was so overwhelmed by how much I related to it, I read it nearly 8 times before the year ended. By now I've memorized almost every scene and I still can't shake off the feeling that I still have to learn a lot from it. Over the years, I realize that without knowing it, it has become my personal Bible - a beacon to keep me from straying from the path of kindness and compassion, no matter what. With its baseless cruelty and what Coleridge poetically referred to as motiveless malignity, the world is in need of much motiveless kindness - a rugged determination to keep the world a quiet haven and not the callous, cruel place it constantly aspires to be. To Kill A Mockingbird is one of those rare books that doesn't give in to the belief that "deep down, everybody's actually good." Not everybody is. And we must still persevere to see things from their perspective, and though we may not justify their ways, we must strive to understand them - though we might not follow them, we must try to be as kind to them in the process, as much as we can. Striving to follow this dictum, I have realized how difficult it is to be kind to others when I find I'm right. It is so easy to put down others bluntly, it is so easy to be critical and fair, but so difficult to consider for a moment what the other might be going through. How convenient it is to dismiss the hardships of others and say, "They had it coming!" and unburden our conscience of the probable guilt that perhaps we've been a bit too harsh. How simple it is to stereotype people, classify them neatly into convenient square boxes and systematically deal with them based on those black-or-white prejudices! Robe a prejudice in the opaque, oppressive garment called Common Sense and display boldly the seal of Social Approval and you've solved the biggest difficulty of life - knowing how to treat people. And yet, nothing could be farther than the truth. Rarely are people so simple as they seem. In Wilde's words, "The pure and never simple truth is rarely pure and never simple truth is rarely pure and never simple." For you never know when a grumpy, rude, racist Mrs. Dubose might be fighting her own monsters or Ewell be, in fact trying to protect the last vestiges of honor he has, or Aunt Alexandra only trying to advocate the least painful way of life. And though we might not agree with any of them, like Atticus, we must see them for their peculiar situations and grant them a little leeway, make a little corner for them too, and yet, stand up for what is right in defiance of them. It is this tricky rope-walking balance between prejudice and common sense, kindness and firmness, and justice and leeway that spurs me to revisit this little book every time I seem to falter. While I find it difficult to keep my cool in the midst of flagrant injustices and ensuing pain, I strive to strike a balance between giving in to despair and becoming too optimistic; between becoming indifferent, unkind, righteous and being compassionate, considerate. It is what keeps me from becoming paranoid or cynical with the unceasing drone of passivity, callousness, overwhelming prejudice and unyielding customs while still being alive to the pain of those very people I do not necessarily agree with. In a country like India with its bizarre, incomprehensible equations and sequestrations of religion, class, caste, region, language, race, gender, sexuality and education, it takes a whole load of effort not to blow up one's mind - people will kill each other over anything and everything. They'll hate each other, isolate each other and cook up stories amongst themselves and leave it floating in the air. It takes every ounce of my energy not to hate my land and its majority people viciously. Yes, viciously But you see, I've got so much to learn to survive here - I have to stand up for myself when there will be hordes banging upon my door telling me to shut the hell up. And I'll have to muster all the courage I have to tell them to go f*** themselves if they think I musn't transcend the limits set for me. But I also have to learn not to hate them. Even if it sounds silly. I know for one, Lee - I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another work. I don't care if you never wrote another wr needed it the most. Five years ago, I hadn't even heard of it. I read it in a single sitting. And then I read it several times over, taking my time, pondering over every page. I still do so. It is my favorite book ever american favorites fiction November 12, 2015So... I don't really know what to say. I think I loved this book, but for a reason beyond my understanding, it never hooked me, and it took me AGES to finish it! Some chapters (especially at the beginning) were tedious and hard for me to get through them... but then there were some chapters that I devoured (the whole Tom Robinson trial and the last ones). I definitely learned a lesson or two from this book. Atticus is my new role model, he is really incredible. I also love Scout and Jem, those kids will be in my heart forever. Oh! And I loved the Boo Radley storyline, it left me in awe. This book surely deserves 5 solid stars, and I kinda feel bad for giving it 4 stars, but the thing is... I was struggling to finish it, I swear I let out a relieved sigh when I read the last sentence. But all in all, it was a great read