

To Kill a Mockingbird is a novel by Harper Lee. Although it was written in 1960 it is set in the mid-1930s in the small town of Maycomb, Alabama. It is narrated by Scout Finch, a six-year-old tomboy who lives with her lawyer father Atticus and her ten-year-old brother Jem. During the novel Scout, Jem and their friend Dill try to make their reclusive neighbour Boo Radley leave his house. Boo has not been seen in Maycomb since he was a teenager.

Many residents of Maycomb are racists and during the novel Atticus is asked to defend Tom Robinson, a black man wrongly accused of raping a white woman. Atticus takes on the case even though everyone knows he has little hope of winning. The reader sees the trial develop through the childlike eyes of Scout, as gradually both she and her brother learn some valuable life lessons from their father about tolerance, empathy and understanding.

Dill arrives in Maycomb and meets Scout and Jem.

They plan to make the local recluse Boo Radley leave his house.

Scout starts school and takes an immediate dislike to it.

Scout and Jem begin to find gifts left in a hole in the Radley oak tree.

Dill returns and the children continue their games based around Boo Radley. Jem gets his trousers caught on the Radley fence but when he returns for them they have been clumsily sewn back together.

The hole in the tree is filled with cement and the children cannot leave their letter of thanks. No more gifts can be left.

It snows for the first time in many years and Miss Maudie's house burns down.

Atticus shocks the children by shooting the mad dog.

Jem beheads Mrs Dubose's camellias when she teases him about Atticus defending Tom Robinson, a black man charged with raping Mayella Ewell who is white. As a punishment, Atticus sends Jem to read to Mrs Dubose.

Atticus sits outside Tom Robinson's prison cell in order to save him from the lynch mob.

The trial begins but despite being innocent Tom is found guilty.

Tom tries to escape and is shot dead.

Bob Ewell, Mayella Ewell's father attacks Jem and Scout but he is killed by Boo Radley who leaves his house in order to save them.