While different types of prejudice become apparent in different situations, each can greatly influence the outcome of events. In Maycomb, when gossip is used to explain situations, the truth of the circumstances can become distorted. Locked within the confines of his own house, Arthur Radley, the neighborhood freak who is not seen in public for years, develops a reputation as Boo Radley, “a malevolent phantom [that]…[commits] stealthy small crimes” (10). Over the years, the myth explaining the disappearance of Arthur Radley from society has replaced the truth of the event, creating an unfair and inaccurate depiction of him in the eyes of the community. Arthur’s past behavior is forgotten, and he simply becomes known as Boo Radley, a person who the town’s imagination develops into the form of a monster. Next, when someone violates an unofficial and traditional code within society, they may experience ostracism and taunting from their peers. Appointed to defend a resident from the black part of town, Atticus Finch, one of Maycomb’s most notable lawyers, angers the community with his efforts to prove the man’s innocence, a situation which even causes his children to “become almost accustomed to hearing insults armed at [their father]” (136). Even though his choice offends many, Atticus accepts responsibility when the community subjects him and his family to ruthless criticism and unjust accusations when he breaks the revered social rule, founded upon traditional racial principles, to follow his moral conscience and prove the colored man’s innocence. In their own minds, the Maycomb citizens justified their hostile behavior towards his family by convincing themselves that, due to the color of his skin, the accused does not deserve a trial. Finally,in life, one may ignore a difficult truth in order to avoid the inevitable conflict that may later arise. Even though the evidence presented throughout his trial strongly suggests his innocence, the jury convicts Tom Robinson, a young black man, of a capital crime upon questionable testimony provided by his two accusers solely because “[no] jury [ever] [decides] in favor of a black man over a white man” (279). Tom and his family were unfairly forced to shoulder the impact of the untruths due to the color of their skin, as his testimony of innocence unconscionably falls on deaf ears. The mood becomes somber as evil prejudice prevails over what is right and the jury’s view of Tom as an inferior black man renders him a guilty verdict. The jury, however, uses Tom’s dark complexion to justify their decision to accept the accuser’s false testimony and convicts innocent Tom because the social consequences of deciding in favor of a black man over a white man would be far too great to risk. Maycomb is overcome with discrimination that affects many residents’ lives.