

Color-Blind

Justice within To Kill a Mockingbird

In To Kill a Mockingbird Lee wrote about a black man named Tom Robinson, who has been accused of raping a very poor white girl named Mayella Ewell, when in all actuality he did nothing but help her out. Mayella taunted Tom and made advances on him but when she pulled a move on him her father saw and thought Tom was raping her, for which he was convicted for. This makes me ask, Can justice ever be color-blind? I thought that this was the main issue that Lee made in the book with a black man is being accused and found guilty even though all evidence points that he is innocent.

Being color-blind is not recognizing racial or class distinctions, this is an important part of finding true justice. Justice is the upholding of what is just, fair treatment and due reward in accordance with honor, standards, or law. People cannot be treated fairly when they are being judged by a bias society, especially when the bias is against them. People often relate to people with similar backgrounds, to the jury the Ewells were from the same racial background so it was only natural that they would be looked at as being truthful. 'First of all,' he said, 'if you can learn a simple trick, Scout, you'll get along a lot better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view.'

'Sir?'

'-until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.'" Page 30. There Atticus was telling Scout the importance of being well rounded and learning about everyone, basically walking in their shoes before you can fairly judge them.

I don't think Atticus could have put it any better, if people would just take the initiative to see things in the eyes of others before judging them it would make the judicial process a lot more fair. Blacks and whites are more the same than different. We all have to look at the differences we have, we must realize that we are all equals and until then hatred and discrimination will still happen. When you really don't know a group of people and all you do is hear stories about them, you allow that to shape your image of them. Such as Scout did with Boo, she had never seen him she was only told stories about and she still was terrified of him.

"Thank who?" I asked.

'Boo Radly. You were so busy looking at the fire you didn't know it when he put the blanket around you.'

My stomach turned to water and I nearly threw up when Jem held out the blanket and crept toward me. 'He sneaked out of the house-tum 'round-sneaked up, an' went like this!'" Page 72. She didn't even know Boo all she did was heard stories, as a human she allowed the stories to shape a visual image for her. She saw Boo as a scary and inhuman, only because she didn't know him, just like the people who held Tom on trial didn't know him all they knew is stories about him and other black people so when they saw him on trial they saw him as another 'Boo'. And, they judged him on the stories they hear about blacks not the validity of his defense. Being Color-Blind doesn't always mean what color you are, it's like a universal symbol that can have many meanings.

"Mr. Ewell wrote on the back of the envelope and looked up to see Judge Taylor looking at him as if he were some fragrant gardenia in full bloom on the witness stand, to see Mr. Gilmer half-sitting, half standing at his table. The jury was watching him, one man leaning over with his hands over the railing.

'What's so interesting?'" he asked.

'You're left handed Mr. Ewell,' said Judge Taylor." Page 177. Mr. Ewell was a white man, he was also proven to be left handed in the court trial, this didn't make any sense at first until it was proven that Mayella was beaten by a left handed man, and Tom couldn't use his left hand. Yet they did manage to find him guilty simply because they were color-blind, they were racist and in the end Tom was sent to jail.

True justice can only be found when, race isn't a factor and prevents someone from being treated fairly. For race not to be a factor people must distinguish the difference between a person and the stereotypes they know about the person's race, and only know the facts about the struggle the particular person has had. As the book To Kill A Mockingbird said it is a sin to kill a mockingbird, Harper Lee showed us that people can be different but that shouldn't change anything we all have to get along. The mockingbird being an innocent person that has done no wrong, just because a mockingbird is a bird doesn't make it evil or worthy of death. Justice should be color-blind and in Harper Lee's Novel she showed what the impact of injustice can be.