In the novel *To Kill* A *Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, there is an incredible amount of racism and prejudice. In the book, a black man is falsely accused of raping a white woman, and this profoundly impacts the family of the lawyer, Atticus Finch, when he defends this man. Atticus lives in a racist, fictional, and hypocritical town in Alabama named Maycomb. By defending a black man he is risking being despised by all of Maycomb County due the county's racism. In this story, the author, Harper Lee, illustrates how racism negatively affected all people living in the South that blacks suffer and whites succumb to a force they didn’t invite, that brings out the worst in both.

One way racism is shown in *To Kill A Mockingbird* is that Tom Robinson got convicted and sentenced to death on someone's word and with no forensic evidence. Tom Robinson was accused of raping Mayella Ewell. She is part of a family with no money and no respect from the rest of Maycomb. The live next to a dump and one day Tom Robinson was walking by to go to work at Mr. Link Deas's house. Mayella called him into their house to chop up a chiffarobe. When he walked in Mayella started kissing him. Mayella' saddens Bob Ewell saw this and got very mad. This caused Tom to run away and for Bob Ewell to beat up Mayella. They went to court and said that Tom Robinson raped her even though this is not the case. In the 1930's Jim Crow South it was normal for black men to stay away from white women. For this reason his punishment, if convicted, would be death. At the court case when the jury comes back the book says, "I shut my eyes. Judge Taylor was polling the jury: 'Guilty...guilty...guilty...guilty...'"(282).

This shows racism because in the Jim Crow South the court always took the word of a white man over the word of a black man. Even though Bob Ewell had a few holes in his story the jury took his word over Tom's due to his skin color. He is ruled guilty and now is sentenced to death because the jury took Bob Ewell's flakey testimony over Tom's testimony. Racism is portrayed through the court system and it is also portrayed through people.

Secondly racism is portrayed through white people comparing blacks to bad things such as animals and immature children. When Aunt Alexandra has her party with the “popular" women in the neighborhood they say some incredibly racist things. When Mrs. Merriweather is talking about her house maid Sophy and is talking about how sad they were about Tom Robinson's verdict she says, Gertrude, I tell you there's nothing more distracting than a sulky darky... You know what I said to my Sophy, Gertrude? I said, 'you simply are not being Christian today. Jesus Christ never went around grumbling and complaining."(310). This illustrates the fact that Mrs. Merriweather is saying that her house slave mourning is grumbling and complaining. When a child doesn't get their way they complain and grumble. But, this is not the way someone acts when they are mourning the impending death of one of their friends (Tom Robinson). It is incredibly racist to compare a mourning black women to a child complaining. In Mrs. Merriweather's mind Sophy shouldn't be sad and should just keep working like nothing ever happened. But by saying it is bad that she is pouting it is like comparing her to a immature child. Racism is found in many ways and it didn't just affect black people.

In addition to racism negatively affecting the lives of black people in the south it also affected the lives of white people. When Jem and Scout are walking home from the school play **they are attack**ed by Bob Ewell. He attempts to take the life of either Scout or Jem due to their father defending Tom Robinson and accusing him of beating his own daughter (Mayella). Jem **gets away** with a broken arm due to help from Boo Radley. Then the sheriff comes to the Finch house to question Atticus and Boo, he says that Bob Ewell fell on his own knife even though it was clearly Boo Radley that killed him. After Sheriff Heck Tate leaves Scout says to Atticus, "Well, it'd be sort of like shootin' a mockingbird, wouldn't it?" (370). This proves that racism

affected white people too because it is a sin to kill a mockingbird. This connects to white people being negatively affected because saying that Bob Ewell fell on his knife is taking attention off Boo. Putting the attention of Boo would be like killing a mockingbird because just like a Mockingbird Boo had good intentions. Now Boo has to live with taking the life of another man for his entire. This violence would have never happened if it weren't for Bob Ewell's actions **toward** Atticus's children, and these actions were inspired by his racism towards Tom. Just like a mockingbird has good intentions, Boo was only trying to help the children. Boo is white and he now has to live with killing a man on his conscience because of the racism in his southern community.

In conclusion, racism in the south affected not just blacks, but it affected white people too. From reading *To Kill A Mockingbird we* learn that racism was a way of life in the south. By Tom Robinson being conflicted on some shaky evidence, Miss Merriweather being racist towards her house maid, and by Boo Radley killing Bob Ewell we learn that racism isn't just affecting black people. It is affecting white people as well through guilt and through their conscience. But it affected black people in a much larger way than it affected white people. There are countless examples of these type of issues in *To Kill A Mockingbird* that illustrate **racism.**

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First draft:

Score! Play hard. I'm too good - move me to Harvard!

In the novel *To Kill A Mockingbird,* Harper Lee illustr**ates that racism negatively affected** *all* people living in the South.

**POWRE**

Plan: pull apart prompt & pick ideas (TKM) Do (verb) What Write

about racism

Further so what - in ending We whites miss out on diversity and blacks do not. We have wrong stereotypes becasue we are living life believeing wrong ideas and they have more accurate understandings of the world than we do.

Racism is prejudice */* unfair treatment */* wrong stereotypes

Ideas but may not use all Scout: Expected to become a proper lady who will have proper values - can't go near black men. Misses out by not getting to know a whole group of men who may be interesting and able to help her. Dolphus: “Becuase you're children and you can understand it Dolphus Raymond (white - can't hang out with white people due to mixed children, but can't hang out with black people since they don't accept him. Acts drunk. Isolated - has to go against his own beliefs */* forced to feel bad every day because he lives a lie - this feeling of being dishonest to himself and the world must well up inside of him and push him toward a breaking point eventually Scout: Loves Calpernia but can't eat with her. Could have a stronger relationship with her. Atticus tried to help, but got hurt trying. (surface) Jem got arm broken (surface) N word lover - kids got teased / into fights

|*(*evidence)

**2**

N92

D *(*analysis)

E (reasoning*/*ending)

**Body Paragraph 3:** In addition to racism negatively affecting the lives of black people in the south it also affected the lives of white people. When Jem and Scout are walking home from the school play they are attacked by Bob Ewell. He attempts to take the life of either Scout or Jem due to their father defending Tom Robinson and accusing him of beating his own daughter (Mayella). Jem gets away with a broken arm due to help from Boo Radley. Then the sheriff comes to the Finch house to question Atticus and Arthur and says that Bob Ewell fell on his own knife even though it was clearly Boo Radley that killed him. After Sheriff Heck Tate leaves Scout says, "Well, it'd be sort of like shootin' a mockingbird, wouldn't it?" *(*147). This proves that racism affected white people to because It is a sin to kill a mockingbird. This connects to white people being negatively affected because saying that Bob Ewell fell on his knife is taking attention off Boo. Putting the attention of Boo would be like killing a mockingbird. Now Boo has to live with taking the life of another man for his entire. This violence would have never happened if it weren't for Bob Ewell's racist actions toward Atticus's children. Just like a mockingbird has good intentions, Boo was only trying to help. Boo is white and he know has to live with killing a man because of racism in his southern community.

AN