

To Kill A Mockingbird

Enrichment Project Choices

"I'd rather you shot at tin cans in the back yard, but I know you'll go after birds. Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, *but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird.*" -Atticus Finch

Enrichment Project

- The purpose of this project is to make connections between the novel and other works in literature, history, and your own life. Final products should be high quality and demonstrate critical thinking.
- Each Enrichment Assignment option has been assigned points. Point values indicate the time investment and project depth expected. For example, a 20 point assignment will take longer to complete than a 10 point assignment because it requires higher-level preparation and thinking; the final product should reflect this investment.
- Choose assignments according to what you want to explore more deeply with the novel through the Enrichment Project. You and I will evaluate the depth, complexity, and originality of thinking demonstrated in assignments. Together we'll look at your work, focusing on how it clearly exhibits effort and high-level thinking in its completion.
- Essay products must follow standard Type 3 format, as defined in class; "your choice" assignments must have teacher approval before completion. If you have an assignment idea that you would like to try, talk to me first, please.
- You have the opportunity to work in pairs for some or all of your choices below. Talk to me to decide how to score your collaborations.

Assessment: Everyone is to choose activities that will equal 40 "points" or an "A." We will evaluate our efforts together through reflection, teacher/student discussion, and class presentation. Everyone will present one element of his/her project to the class.

RESEARCH

[30 pts] Read Thornton Wilder's play Our Town. In a three-paragraph essay juxtapose Emily Webb's general observations of life through her backward glance with the view of life presented in retrospect by Scout Finch.

[30 pts] 8th graders only, reread Lorraine Hansberry's A Raisin in the Sun. In a three-paragraph essay write about the issues facing the Younger family in Chicago in the 1960s. Compare the social inequality in Chicago to the social inequality for Tom Robinson and others in the novel.

[20 pts] Read Flannery O'Connor's short story "The Displaced Person." In a three-paragraph essay explain why or why not characters in this story might be "mockingbirds."

[20 pts] Read Pearl S. Buck's short story "The Enemy." In a three-paragraph essay compare the doctor's stand against public and private pressure with Atticus'. Discuss adherence to professional ethics in each case.

[20 pts] Read Flannery O'Connor's short story "Revelation." In a three-paragraph essay compare the theme of human understanding and compassion, especially in regard to "unfavorable" people, in both stories (e.g. the growing sub-culture of "Southern white trash" in each story).

[20 pts] Read William Faulkner's short story "A Rose for Emily." In a three-paragraph essay compare his depiction of a female, Southern character with Lee's.

[25 pts] Watch the 1957 film *12 Angry Men* directed Sydney Lumet and take a few notes on the process the jury goes through in deciding whether a young man is guilty or innocent. Use those notes and write a three-paragraph essay connecting the film with Tom Robinson's trial and jury deliberation in the novel. (This is a great partner or group activity. If you can get together and watch the film, the essay can be replaced by a filmed discussion the group has afterwards. Groups can borrow my Flip video camera.)

[25 pts] Watch the 1967 Stanley Kramer film *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* and take notes on the barriers the young couple encounter from their parents and society. Use those notes and write a three-paragraph essay connecting the film with Dolphus Raymond's behavior regarding his biracial relationship and children in the novel (1930s). (This is a great partner or group activity. If you can get together and watch the film, the essay can be replaced by a filmed discussion the group has afterwards. Groups can borrow my Flip video camera.)

[25 pts] 8th graders only, watch the 1961 film *A Raisin in the Sun* directed by Daniel Petrie, and write a three-paragraph essay about the issues facing the Younger family in Chicago in the 1960s. Compare the social inequality in Chicago to the social inequality in for Tom Robinson and others in the novel. (This is a great partner or group activity. If you can get together and watch the film, the essay can be replaced by a filmed discussion the group has afterwards. Groups can borrow my Flip video camera.)

[15 pts] In a three-paragraph essay, report on a legal case or decision involving racial discrimination.

[15 pts] In a three-paragraph, essay report on the progress of integration in the United States.

[10 pts] Memorize Langston Hughes' poem "Harlem," and write two paragraphs about how character's dreams are deferred in the novel. Make sure to focus on Tom and Boo.

[10 pts] Read John Greenleaf Whittier's poem "In School Days." In a two-paragraph essay contrast the attitude toward "old school days" in the poem with attitudes toward school expressed in the novel.

IMAGINATION

[25 pts] Make a short film that illustrates one of the themes in the novel. Use one of the following four themes: the coexistence of good and evil, the importance of moral education, the existence of social inequality, or empathy: walking in someone else's shoes.

[25 pts] Create a poetry anthology with at least five poems that illustrate major themes in the novel. The anthology should have a decorative cover and a foreword explaining how the poems connect to the novel.

[25 pts] Paint a mural illustrating a moral lesson or theme in the novel.

[15 pts] Take photographs of or illustrate people who could represent characters in the novel (at least 2 characters) and present them to the class. Each photo or drawing should be professionally displayed with a title underneath and a quote from the novel that exemplifies the character.

[15 pts] Make a CD of original and found songs and/or poems dealing with one of the following subjects:

- Discrimination/Prejudice
- Human understanding and compassion
- Individual conscience

Include liner notes about the songs and their connection to the novel and a decorative CD cover. There should be at least 3 songs/poems on the CD.

[10 pts] Some authors include maps of their story's setting on which they indicate places where the most important events of the novel take place. Labels indicate a place and what happened there. Create a map for Maycomb, AL.

[5 pts] Make a collage that depicts one of the following subjects:
-Discrimination/Prejudice - Individual conscience
-Human understanding and compassion

REACTION

[25 pts] Volunteer to help someone. As Jem and Scout helped Mrs. Dubose when she needed it, volunteer to help someone in need. Work for at least two hours and write down what you did. In a two-paragraph essay explain how you feel about taking time to help someone else and walk in his/her shoes.

[15 pts] Stage a debate or write a persuasive essay on one of the following topics (this may be a group project):
- People are entitled to respect for their opinions.
- No one is entitled to an opinion that is dangerous or harmful to others.
- People are more compassionate and understanding today.
- People are stronger individuals today.
- There is as much prejudice today as in the 1930s.

[10 pts] Keep a journal for a week with your own responses to people. Are *you* compassionate and understanding? Present your findings in a format of your choice.

[10 pts] Reread "Poet to Bigot" by Langston Hughes and interpret the poem through the lens of the characters in the novel. Write one-paragraph about who are bigots in the novel and one paragraph about who are poets in the novel.

[10 pts] Write a letter to Harper Lee telling her what her first and only novel meant to you. Specifically refer to moral lessons you learned or characters you connected with. You'll actually mail a copy of the letter to Ms. Lee. Include a stamped addressed envelope to:
Harper Lee
McIntosh & Otis, Inc.
353 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10016

[5 pts] React to one or more the following quotes on the subject of opinion, using a format of your choice:

"Any man has a right to his own opinions as long as he can defend them with facts." – Roy L. Smith

"Our opinion does not affect the truth of a thing." – Orlando Wright

"Public opinion in this country is everything." – Abraham Lincoln

"As I made my way home, I thought Jem and I would get grown but there wasn't much else left for us to learn, except possibly algebra."
-Scout Finch