

To Kill a Mockingbird

According to the Glencoe Literature Library in 1991 the Library of Congress conducted a survey of book readers. Readers were asked to cite books that had made a difference in their lives. One of the books most often cited was Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The only book ranked higher by readers was the Bible.

One reason people feel so passionate about this book is it contains such strong themes. A theme is a central or underlying idea in literature. A writer may express insight about humanity or a world view. Before you attempt to identify a theme of a work, you must have first read the work, and should understand at least the basics about the plot, characterizations, and other literary elements.

After finishing the study of this novel, we will identify several themes and then you will pick one theme to complete an activity.

Goal: To show you understand the literary term theme by connecting a theme that is evident in "To Kill a Mockingbird" to a set of song lyrics.

You will:

1. Complete a worksheet on theme
2. Find and print off a copy of the song lyrics (school appropriate lyrics) that you choose
3. Type a 1 1/2 page to 2 page analysis explaining how these lyrics reflects a theme in "To Kill a Mockingbird". The analysis should connect the meaning of the song to specific events, characters and details in the novel.

Name _____

Theme Worksheet

You will identify several subjects that are evident in the novel "To Kill a Mockingbird". Once you have created a list of subjects. Then we will identify a theme- what is being said about the subject.

Story title: "To Kill a Mockinbird"

List of subjects:

Circle one subject and write a thematic statement. Think about what is being said regarding this subject that expresses a truth about life or a truth about human nature.

Thematic statement:

Textual Support- identify the type of textual support (setting, conflict, characters, symbols, etc) and then give the detail.