



Key Vocabulary: To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Vocabulary Word	Definition	Historical and political context of the book
Auspicious	Favourable, indicating a positive outcome or success	<p>"To Kill a Mockingbird" is set in the 1930s in the fictional town of Maycomb, Alabama, in the Southern United States. The novel was published in 1960, during the height of the Civil Rights Movement in the US, and it is often seen as a reflection of the racial tensions and social injustices that characterized that era.</p> <p>During the 1930s, the South was still deeply segregated and racist attitudes were widespread, particularly towards African Americans. The legal system was also heavily biased against black people, with many white juries and judges delivering unjust verdicts in cases where a black person was accused of a crime. The novel explores these themes through the trial of Tom Robinson, a black man falsely accused of raping a white woman, and the reactions of the town's residents to the trial and its aftermath.</p> <p>The novel also touches on other political and social issues of the time, such as poverty, gender roles, and the importance of education. The Great Depression had a profound impact on the lives of people in the South, and the novel portrays the struggles of many families to make ends meet during this difficult time. The gender roles of the time are also evident in the novel, with women largely relegated to domestic duties and seen as inferior to men. Finally, the importance of education is emphasized throughout the novel, with Atticus Finch teaching his children the value of critical thinking and the importance of standing up for what is right, even in the face of opposition.</p> <p>Overall, "To Kill a Mockingbird" is a powerful reflection of the historical and political context of the Southern United States in the 1930s, and its themes and messages continue to resonate with readers today.</p>
Benign	Kind and gentle; not harmful	
Condescend	To talk down to someone or act in a superior manner	
Edification	Intellectual or moral improvement or enlightenment	
Formidable	Causing fear or respect due to size, strength, or ability	
Impotent	Lacking power or strength; unable to take effective action	
Inevitable	Certain to happen; unavoidable	
Indigenous	Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native	
Malignant	Dangerous or harmful; likely to cause death	
Melancholy	Sad and gloomy; feeling or causing a sense of sadness	
Piety	Devotion to religious practices and beliefs	
Predilection	A preference or liking for something; a bias	
Quaint	Old-fashioned or charmingly unusual	
Repertoire	A stock of skills or types of behaviour that a person habitually uses	
Requisite	Required or necessary for a particular purpose	
Taciturn	Reserved or uncommunicative in speech; saying little	
Temerity	Excessive or foolish boldness; recklessness	
Unmitigated	Absolute, unqualified, or complete	
Vexation	The state of being annoyed, frustrated, or worried	