to kill a mockingbird

CHARACTER SUMMARIES

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# Scout Finch:

* Scout is an innocent girl who is exposed to evil at an early age and forced to develop an adult moral outlook

Traits:

* Intelligent (knows how to read
* Confident (fights boys)
* Thoughtful (worries about the good and bad of mankind)
* Good (does everything with good intentions)
* Scout, thanks to Atticus’s hands-off parenting style, wears overalls and learns to climb trees with Jem and Dill
* She does not always grasp social niceties (she tells her teacher that one of her fellow students is too poor to pay her back for lunch), and human behaviour often baffles her (as when one of her teachers criticizes Hitler’s prejudice against Jews while indulging in her own prejudice against blacks),

Development over the course of the novel:

* Beginning:
  + innocent, good-hearted five-year-old child who has no experience with the evils of the world
* as the novel progresses:
  + Scout has her first contact with evil in the form of racial prejudice, and the basic development of her character is governed by the question of whether she will emerge from that contact with her conscience and optimism intact or whether she will be bruised, hurt, or destroyed like Boo Radley and Tom Robinson
* By the end:
  + Thanks to Atticus’s wisdom, Scout learns that though humanity has a great capacity for evil, it also has a great capacity for good, and that the evil can often be mitigated if one approaches others with an outlook of sympathy and understanding
  + Though she is still a child at the end of the book, Scout’s perspective on life develops from that of an innocent child into that of a near grown-up

# Jem Finch:

* His shattering experience at Tom Robinson’s trial occurs just as he is entering puberty, a time when life is complicated and traumatic enough. His disillusionment upon seeing that justice does not always prevail leaves him vulnerable and confused at a critical, formative point in his life

# Atticus Finch:

* Intelligent
* Wise
* Respected by everyone (including the poor)
* Represents morality and justice

# Boo Radley: