

## English 10

### To Kill a Mockingbird Background Assignment

The novel, "To Kill a Mockingbird" is a classic novel written by Harper Lee. The author loosely based the novel on her own childhood experiences in a non-specific southern town in 1936. When the book was released in 1960, it was viewed as a success because it came out at the same time the American Civil Rights Movement was underway. In order to fully appreciate and understand the novel we need to understand the time and the events that surround the novel. In groups of 3 you will be responsible for a set of questions. Your assignment is to find the information and present it to the class using an appropriate app.

You will be given 3 classes to work on this assignment. You will be assessed on the attached rubrics (Presentation and self-assessments). Each group will be researching one of the following topics:

1. The American Civil War/Slavery
2. Jim Crow Laws
3. Martin Luther King Jr./ The Civil Rights Movement
4. The Black Panther Party
5. Malcolm X
6. Harper Lee
7. The Great Depression
8. The Ku Klux Klan\*\*\*

Riverside Secondary School

To Kill a Mockingbird Presentation

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Presentation: \_\_\_\_\_ Title of Work: \_\_\_\_\_

	1	2	3	4	total
Delivery/ Organization	Student mumbles and uses incorrect pronunciation. Audience cannot understand presentation because there is no sequence of information.	Student may pronounce things incorrectly. Audience has difficulty following presentation because information is somewhat disjointed or because they can't hear the speaker properly.	Student presents information clearly, in logical sequence which audience can follow and with few pronunciation or volume problems.	Student presents interesting sequence in logical, audience can follow and speaks in a clear voice with precise pronunciation. Audience is engaged.	
Knowledge	Student does not have grasp of information; student cannot answer questions about subject.	Student is uncomfortable with information and is able to answer only rudimentary questions.	Student is at ease with content, but fails to elaborate or answer all questions.	Student demonstrates full knowledge (more than required) with explanations and elaboration.	
Visuals	Student used no visuals.	Student occasionally used visuals that rarely support text and presentation.	Visuals related to text and presentation.	Student used visuals to reinforce ideas and presentation and referred back to it frequently.	
Content	Student Failed to answer more than one of the questions and had numerous errors in facts or mechanics in their presentation.	Student answered most of the questions and had no serious errors in facts or mechanics to obscure their meaning.	Student answered all of the questions and included some additional information and had no errors or none that damaged the integrity of the presentation.	Student answered all the questions and had quite a lot of additional information that contributed to the interest level and relevance of the presentation and had no noticeable errors.	

Teacher Comments:

Riverside Secondary School

To Kill a Mockingbird Participation Self-assessment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Fellow Group Members: \_\_\_\_\_

	Not at all	Somewhat	For the most part	Completely/All the time
Teamwork: I listened to my team members and contributed my own ideas to the project.				
Research: I found and analysed sources and took thorough notes.				
Project Construction: I participated in putting together both the visual and oral components of the presentation.				
Presentation: I actively took part in the presentation, both presenting information and answering questions.				

Additional Comments on Team Members:

## Harper Lee

1. When and where was Harper Lee born? Who were Lee's parents and what did they do?

2. When did Lee begin writing *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and what, briefly, were some of the significant events going on in this period?

3. What year was the novel published and what was the public reaction/results or its publication?

4. What else has Harper Lee written? Why?

5. Describe the setting of the novel.

## ***To Kill a Mockingbird* Background Information**

### **The American Civil War/Slavery**

1. When did the American Civil War begin and end?
2. Who were the two opposing sides in the war and what were their basic beliefs concerning slavery?
3. Why did the white southerners support slavery?
4. What happened as a result of Abraham Lincoln being elected president of the United States?
5. Who won the Civil War? What Act of Congress did the victors introduce?
6. After the war, how did the white southerners feel about blacks?

## **Jim Crow Laws**

1. What are the Jim Crow Laws, when were they initiated, and who initially implemented them?

2. List as many examples of the Jim Crow Laws as you can.

3. Did Jim Crow Laws exist before the Civil War? Why or why not?

4. What purpose did the whites have in implementing these laws?

5. Name some of the practical consequences of these laws.

## **The Montgomery Bus Boycott/Rosa Parks**

1. Describe the timing of the Bus Boycott, both in terms of the actual dates and the setting.

2. What specific laws and social rules were broken by the boycott?

3. Who was Rosa Parks and what, specifically, did she do?

4. What were the events leading up to the boycott? Was it spontaneous or planned (be detailed)?

5. What was the reaction of the white population to the Rosa Parks incident, both at the time and later?

### **Martin Luther King Jr./The Civil rights Movement**

1. Who was King and when and where was he born?

2. What did King say was the enemy of the black people and what did he say could breach the divide between blacks and whites? How did these opinions differ from those of Malcolm X.?

3. As King's popularity grew, what happened in the south?

4. When and how did King die and how did people react to his death?

5. What is the Civil rights Movement and what impact did King's life and death have on it?

## **The Black Panther Party**

1. What was the Black Panther Party? Who started it and when and where did it begin?

2. What were the aims of the Party and what steps did they take towards those goals?

3. Who joined the Party and why?

4. What impact did the Party have on life for both the blacks and whites in the south?

5. What is the New Black Panther Party and how does its philosophy and purpose differ from that of the original Party?

## **The Ku Klux Klan**

1. What is the Ku Klux Klan? Who started it and when and how did it begin?

2. What was the philosophy and purpose of the Klan and what steps did they take towards their goals?



3. Who joined the Klan and why?

4. What was the Klan's impact and how did blacks and whites feel about them and their existence?

5. Does the Klan still exist today and, if so, what does it look like and does it differ from the original Klan? How or why/not?

### **Malcolm X**

1. Who was Malcolm X and when and where was he born?

2. What are some significant events in Malcolm X's childhood and how did these shape his philosophy of black rights?

3. What was his main message to blacks and whites and how did this message differ from King's? According to Malcolm X, what were his reasons for changing his last name?

4. What specific actions did Malcolm X take for black rights and what did he accomplish?

5. How did Malcolm X die and what impact did his death have on both blacks and whites?

### **The Great Depression**

1. What was the great depression, and when did it happen?

2. Discuss some of the implications of the depression in terms of things like social change and job security. What might it have meant for black and white relations?

3. What kinds of strategies did the government employ to try and end the depression?

4. What was the impact of the depression in rural areas as opposed to the cities?

5. How does the depression we are going through today differ from this one? Why?