

Student Essay on Humour in "to Kill a Mockingbird"

Humour in "to Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee

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Essay

in the novel "to kill a mocking bird", the main theme is racism, but among the serious prejudice and unfair judgements, there are small snippets of humour, in the form of sarcasm, irony, and child's perspectives.

As the narrator of the novel is a child, there are a numerous amount of funny moments from Scout's perspective. When Scout's teacher is upset that Scout has already learned how to read, Scout becomes mad at Calpurnia, because she was the one who taught her how to read - "She'd already got me into trouble once today: she had taught me how to write and it was all her fault."

Another humorous moment from Scout is when she is confronting the mob that is harassing Atticus, and she kicks the man that was going to take Jem back home - and kicked him in the wrong place... - "I was surprised to see him fall back in real pain. I intended to kick his shin, but aimed to high."

From Scout's point of view, she finds it funny that these men, while harassing her father, are talking in almost whispers - "I later realised what was a sickeningly comic aspect of an unfunny situation: the men talked in near whispers"

In the court case, when Atticus finds out that Mr Ewell writes with his left hand, Ewell is asked if he is left handed, or ambidextrous - "your left hand, are you ambidextrous, Mr Ewell?" but Mr Ewell answer - "i... am not, I can use one hand as good as the other" - is unclear, because he contradicts himself.

It just goes to show, that in the most serious of situations, there can still be a "silver lining" - which in this book, is the snippets of humour.