

To Kill A Mockingbird

Scout's character

The Question

- ✦ Remember to read the question carefully.
- ✦ How many parts are there to the question?
- ✦ What marks are awarded for each part (if relevant)?



Examples of a Character Question

- ✦ 1. From the short stories and novels you have studied, choose either a character you like OR a character you dislike. Identify one or more incidents from the text that particularly influenced your feelings towards this character and explain why your chosen incident(s) influenced you to either like or dislike him or her. (30 marks)
- ✦ 2012 Junior Cert Examination

- ✦ 2. From a novel or short story you have read describe a character that impressed you, and explain why this character did so. (30 marks)
- ✦ 2007 Junior Cert Examination

Structuring your answer

- How is the character **introduced** and what is our first impression of him or her?
- Does the character have to face any **challenges** and, if so, how does he or she react to them?
- Does the character have to deal with a major **crisis** at a turning point in the story?
- How is the crisis **resolved** and what role does the character play in the resolution (if any)?
- What is our **final impression** of the character and is it different from our initial impression?

Key Moments

- You will need to discuss certain key moments in the story to support your points, but make sure that you do not simply give a summary of the plot. A couple of lines is fine. Remember, the examiner will be familiar with 'To Kill A Mockingbird' as it is a very famous novel.



Quotes

- You will need to have one or two quotes to support the points being made in your answer.
- The best quotes to learn are those you pick out of the book as you plan your answers to past questions. Highlight them and learn them. You can also learn the quotes from sample answers you are given in class.



Paragraph Plan

- 1.Intro: S is outspoken etc. but becomes mature
- 2.Impulsive, means well. Walter C incident.
- 3.Intelligent and well-read.
- 4.Intelligence and sense of fairness = becoming less judgemental.
- 5.Changing attitude towards Boo Radley shows how much S has changed.
- 6.Learns that outspoken honesty is not always wisest policy. Mature.
- 7.Has developed into mature person who is well-equipped to face future challenges.

Paragraph One - Introduction

The novel I have studied is Harper Lee's 'To Kill A Mockingbird', set in the fictional town of Maycomb, Alabama, during the Great Depression of the 1930s. The character who impressed me the most was the young narrator, Scout Finch. Scout is a remarkable and unusual girl who develops over the course of the novel from a rebellious, outspoken child to a far more mature and wise youngster.



Paragraph Two

- ✦ Scout captures our attention because she is unusual
- ✦ Tomboy
- ✦ Although she is impulsive she acts with the best of intentions
- ✦ Briefly describe the incident in which she tries to explain to the teacher about Walter Cunningham and the lunch money (Chapter Two)
- ✦ Say that you admired Scout's forthright nature and her desire to set things right even if she was a bit misguided

Paragraph Three

- ✦ **Link** to previous paragraph AND **refer** to question 'Another aspect of Scout's personality that impressed me...'
- ✦ Intelligence
- ✦ Can read before she goes to school
- ✦ Has an astonishing knowledge of the law etc.
- ✦ Is deeply disturbed when she learns she may not be able to read any more
- ✦ "Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing."
- ✦ Love of knowledge and intelligence are **admirable**

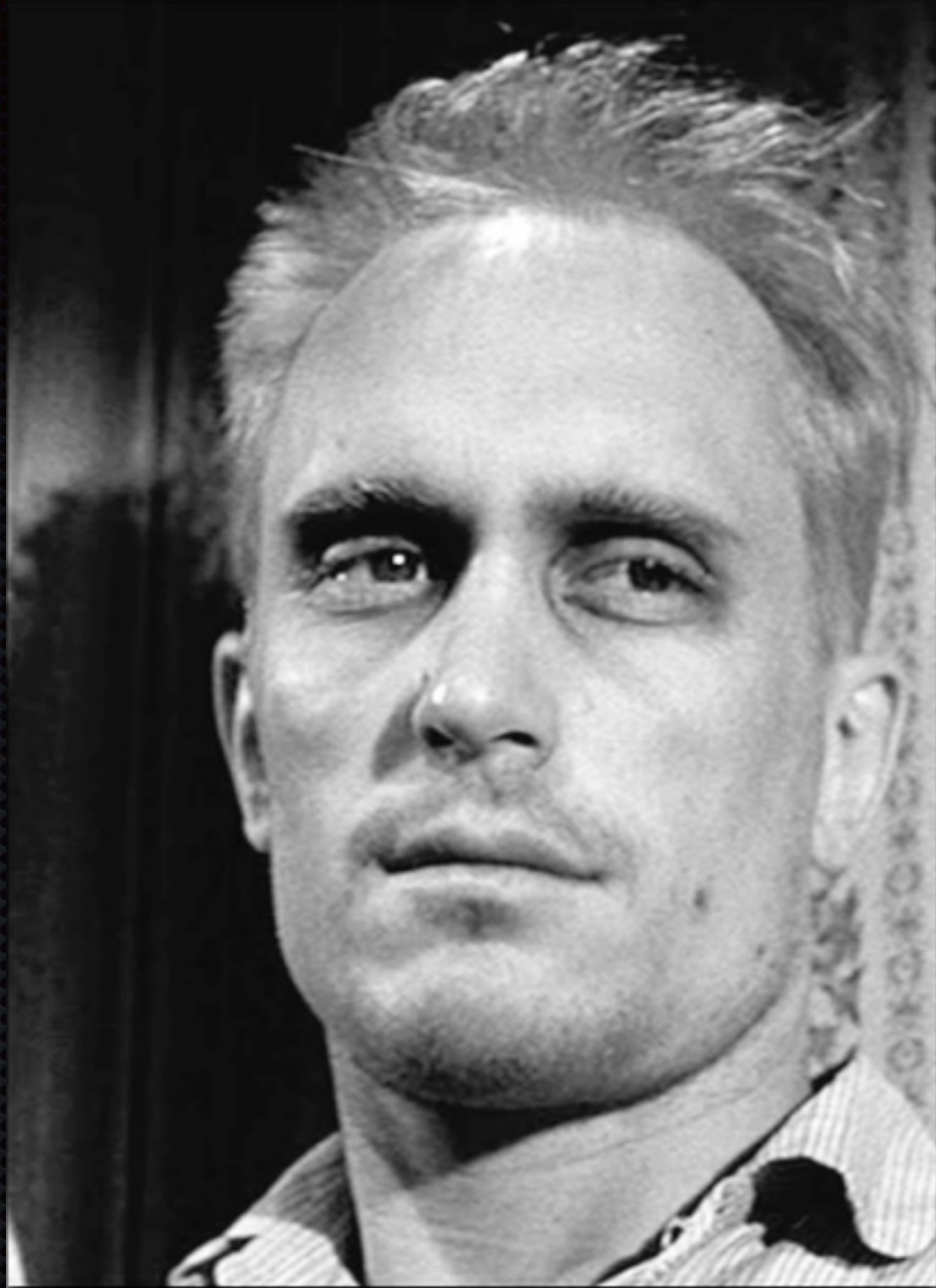
Paragraph Four

- Learns hard lessons about the unfairness of the world but maintains her own sense of justice
- Was insensitive to Dill's lies about his 'father' but becomes more understanding
- Feels pity for Mayella Ewell
- Understands that there are people who can't rise above their prejudices



Paragraph Five

- ✦ Scout's maturity is best seen in her approach to Boo Radley
- ✦ At the start of the novel she does not question that he is a 'malevolent phantom' who is responsible for any 'stealthy crimes committed in Maycomb'.
- ✦ When Boo saves her and Jem from Bob Ewell, she sees him for the good man he is
- ✦ Appreciates his shyness and treats him with sensitivity



Paragraph Six

Scout has come to see that sometimes saying nothing is the best option.

As she says to Atticus, drawing attention to Boo would be 'sort of like shootin' a mockingbird'. I found Scout's maturity in dealing with this situation **commendable**.



Paragraph Seven - Conclusion

- Has changed from that of an innocent child to that of a girl more than ready to take her place in a world with a capacity for great goodness as well as great evil.
- Has developed into a person whose sympathy and understanding will, I believe, equip her to face future challenges ethically and kindly.

