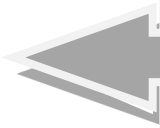


To Kill A Mockingbird – Character That Impressed You

From a novel or short story you have read describe a character that impressed you, and explain why this character did so. (30)


Answer

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.



This is your thesis statement, and will be referred to again in the conclusion.

Scout is a tomboy whose temper gets the better of her at times. She is very impulsive and outspoken. However, she always acts with the best of



It is best to approach your points in chronological order.


intentions. When her teacher, Miss Caroline, tries to lend lunch money to Walter Cunningham, Scout takes it upon herself to explain to the teacher that he will not accept it as the Cunninghams never borrow anything they cannot pay back. Scout's well-meaning effort to help backfires when she is punished for speaking out, but I admired her for tackling the problem in the best way she could.

Another aspect of Scout's character that impressed me was her intelligence.

She can read and write before she goes to school, even though she does not remember being taught to do so. She values this ability greatly, and is


disturbed by her teacher's insistence that she stop reading and writing until she can be properly taught. That such a young child should set such store by learning is truly admirable.

Link sentences
make your answer
flow well.



Although she can be insensitive, for example when she asks Walter Cunningham why he is pouring syrup on his dinner, Scout's desire to learn and her sense of fairness enable her to become, in time, less judgemental. She sees, for example, that Mayella Ewell is a lonely girl longing for affection. She also sees for herself that there are many people in Maycomb who are unwilling to rise above their prejudices and are willing to sentence an innocent black man to death on the word of 'trash' like the Ewells. I found it impressive that Scout does not allow such difficult lessons to make her cynical or hard, but instead she maintains her sense of justice and her conscience throughout.

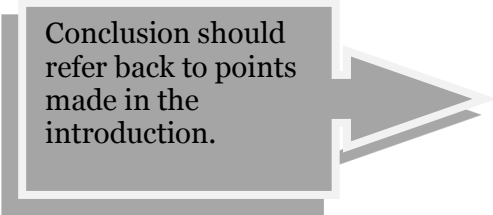
Scout's progression from a quick-tempered little girl to a wiser young woman is most clearly seen in her attitude towards her neighbour, Boo Radley. At the start of the novel, Scout believes all the rumours about Boo, and does not question that he is a 'malevolent phantom'. It is when Boo comes to Scout and Jem's aid and saves them from Bob Ewell that Scout finally sees him for what he is: a shy, fragile and timid man. What impressed me most about Scout's meeting Boo for the first time was the way in which she is able to see things from his perspective.



Make sure you
keep referring back
to the question.

An honest girl, Scout nevertheless appreciates the need to shelter Boo from public attention, and therefore accepts the sheriff's suggestion that the official story will be that Bob Ewell fell on his knife. The little girl who couldn't stop

herself from pointing out Walter Cunningham's poor table manners has now become capable of realising that sometimes it is better to say nothing or tell a lie to protect the innocent. 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.



Conclusion should refer back to points made in the introduction.

By the end of the novel, Scout has developed into a person whose sympathy and understanding will, I believe, equip her to face future challenges ethically and kindly. All in all, Scout Finch is certainly one of the most impressive characters I have come across in my reading.