

Studied Fiction

Typical Questions and How to Prepare for Them

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Character

- Focus on dynamic rather than static characters.
- It is rare that you will be able to write much about a character who does not undergo change over the course of the novel.



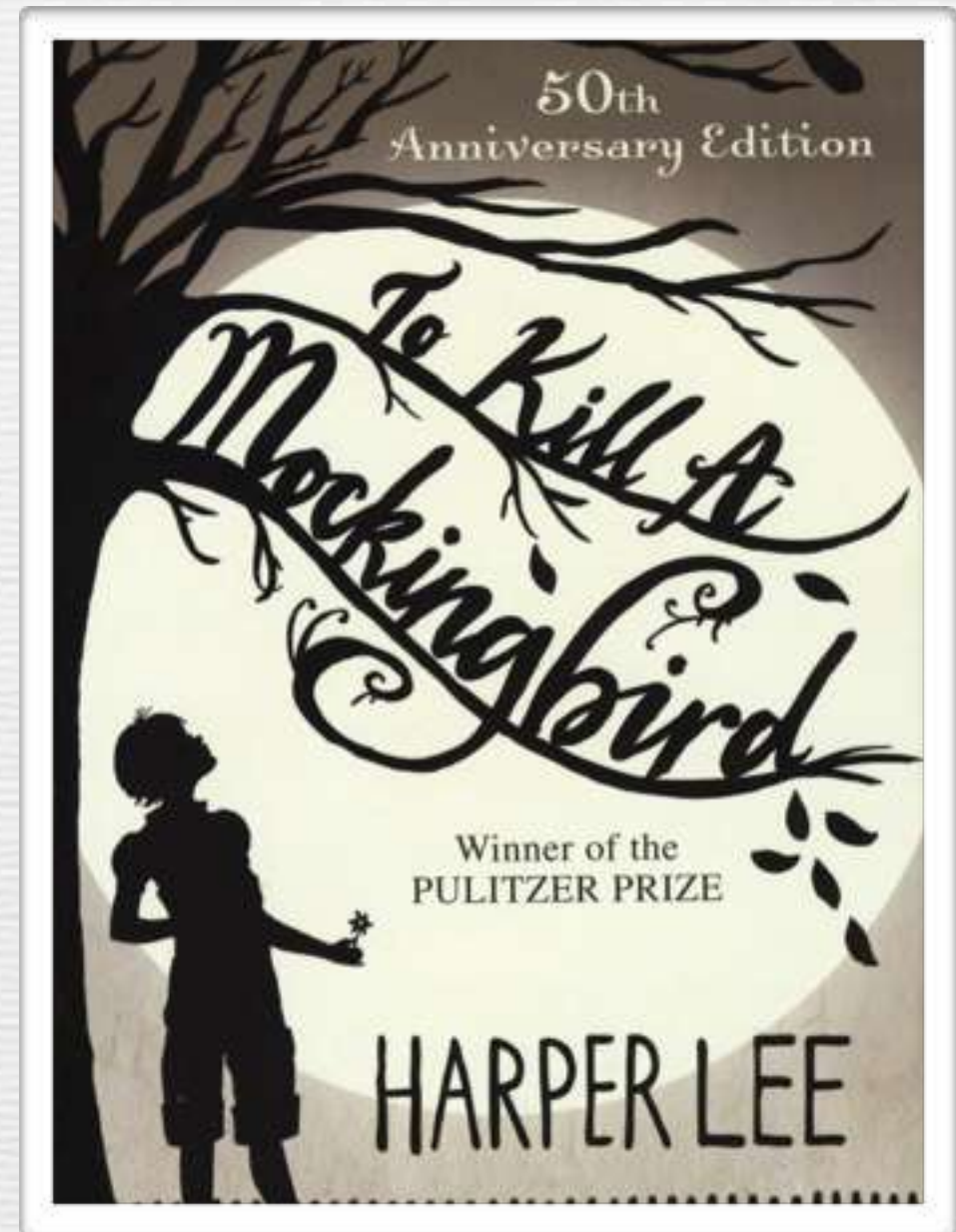
Relationships

- This is one occasion when you can discuss characters who do not undergo change.
- Calpurnia and Atticus are the same at the end of the novel as they were at the start, but you need to be able to discuss their influence on Scout.



Themes

- You must be prepared to talk about racism, growing up and good and evil.



Key Moments

- You may be asked to discuss a section of the text which is happy, sad, tense, light-hearted or serious, for example.
- You should also be ready to discuss the opening and the closing of the novel.



Conflict

- Be prepared to discuss conflict between characters.
- Have a number of key moments when this conflict is clearly shown.
- Think of the structure of the plot: introduction, development, challenges and difficulties, climax, resolution, final impression.



World of the Text

- You may be asked to comment on the world of the text and you should be ready to say why you would or would not like to live in that world.



- The time period in which the story is set
- The place where the story is set
- The political background, if relevant. Is there a war on, for example?
- The way women and children are treated.
- Is there prejudice or injustice in the world of the text?

- What are people's religious beliefs? Do they affect their actions?
- Who holds the most power in the world of the text?
Is it wealthy men, for example?

Style

- Be prepared to comment on the way the story is written.
- It is a first person narrative and we identify with the narrator, Scout.
- The Southern dialect helps bring the story to life
- Etc.



Review

- Be ready to say why you would recommend this text to people of your own age.
- You may wish to talk about the theme(s), characters, relationships and what you learned about the world of the text.

