

To Kill a Mockingbird Book Club

For each unit this year, after we finish our model read, we will then split up into groups, where you will be assigned another text. With your group, you will make a schedule for your completion of the book, confirm and question the text in class, make a novel study guide, make connections to *TKaM*, and then demonstrate your understanding of the novel in a culminating project.

For the first group read, you will have a choice between twelve novels. Each one shares in concepts and ideas with *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Specifically think of the characters, relationships, and conflicts as you read the novel. In the end you will write an essay comparing how each novel explores an issue.

Group Work in Class

- You will have twelve class meetings to finish the text (approximately three weeks); determine how many pages you need to read per class
 - Remember that you might want to reserve larger chunks for classes between weekends and drop days
- During class, we will have learning stations
 - Writing Conferences
 - Work with Schneider on revising writing
 - NRI Work
 - Individual or Group Reading your Book Club pick
 - Discussion on the text
 - Group will go over and review the past section of reading
 - In these discussions, you will:
 - Confirm the details of the text
 - Share insights about characters and actions
 - Share challenging vocabulary and work together to determine the meaning

	Participation	Use of Text	Listening
	* Has read the assigned passage and helps confirm details * Takes turn being a discussion facilitator by eliciting responses from others * Challenges peers to think deeply about the text	* Uses the text to support answers * Adds to word study from text * Adds to notes as they read; includes a list of topics * Records page numbers for significant moments next to topics	* Listens to group mates and considers their claims and evidence * Builds on others ideas * Make connections group mates' claims by using previous examples from the text
	/10	/10	/10
	/10	/10	/10
	/10	/10	/10
Self	/10	/10	/10

Essential Questions

To get you started, here are a few essential questions that relate to *To Kill a Mockingbird* and should relate to your book club selection.

- **Censorship**
 - In what ways is certain information censored from specific sections of society?
 - To what extent is censorship beneficial or harmful?
 - When is it society's job to censor information from vulnerable people?
- **Justice and Equality**
 - In what ways do justice and equality manifest themselves in society?
 - When we see injustice, what is our duty as citizens to fix it?
 - Which avenues are best to deal with righting injustices and inequalities: laws, editorials, satire, education?
- **Maturation and Understanding the World**
 - As adolescents, how do we best come to understand the world?
 - In what ways do we retain our innocence in the face of the outside world?
 - How does risk-taking, myths, and superstition help children deal with the outside world?
- **Racism, Prejudice, and Hypocrisy**
 - How does racism and prejudice manifest themselves in society?
 - In what ways does hypocrisy skew adults ability to explain the world to adolescents?
 - What is the best avenue to lessen racism and prejudice?
- **Social Class and Heritage**
 - In what ways does social class affect who we do and don't interact with? How does that affect our perspective of the world?
 - Is heritage important to our growth and maturation?
 - In what ways does recognizing heritage and social class create divisions in society?
- **Gender Roles**
 - How do gender roles and expectations affect how we are viewed by society?
 - In what ways is it necessary to conform to gender roles and norms?
 - How are different genders treated and how does that affect power structures?
- **Compassion, Forgiveness, and Humanization**
 - How do we best teach and support the notions of compassion, empathy, and forgiveness?
 - In what ways can compassion and empathy become a danger to our ability to see the world?
 - In what ways does society humanize some and dehumanize other members of society?
- **Language and Communication**
 - How do we best communicate in different contexts?
 - In what ways are swear words used by youths? Is it a sign of maturity or immaturity?
 - When authors use mature and explicit language, in what ways does that affect the way we read

To Kill a Mockingbird Book Club Selections

Below are your options to choose from. You will fill out a survey eventually, but for now, peruse the books via the links to *Goodreads*. As a warning, some of these books have adult language in them that might make you uncomfortable while reading; I have marked these picks with an asterisk. If that is not something you want to have to navigate, please pick carefully.

[*Dear Martin* by Nic Stone*](#)

[*Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd](#)

[*Monster* by Walter Dean Myers](#)

[*The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas*](#)

[*All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely*](#)

[*The 57 Bus* by Dashka Slater*](#)

[*March: Trilogy* by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin](#)

[*After Tupac and D Foster* by Jacqueline Woodson](#)

[*One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia](#)

[*Revolution* by Deborah Wiles](#)

[*This Boy's Life* by Tobias Wolff](#)

[*How it Went Down* by Kekla Magoon*](#)

