

WHS Book Rationale

Title: _____ *To Kill a Mockingbird* _____

Author: _____ Nelle Harper Lee _____

Grade/Level: _____ 9 _____

- Intended Audience
 - English 9 / English 9 Honors
- Brief summary and educational significance
 - Set in 1930s Alabama, centers around the Finch family. Young narrator, Scout, tells the story of a court case fraught with racial prejudice.
 - Coming of age story. Historical context – Scottsboro trial, civil rights movement. Won Pulitzer Prize.
- Purpose of teaching the work and how it will be used
 - Allows for discussion of Gothic literature, symbolism, point of view (child narrator), motifs, themes, moral dilemmas and development. Heroes.
- Potential problems with the work
 - Rape case, language (racial slurs), latent prejudice.
- Addressing potential problems
 - Opportunities to discuss how the work reflects the time period. Avoiding reading racial slurs aloud (choosing an abbreviation).