

(T/A) Harper Lee uses setting to help reveal the importance of courage in the novel, To Kill a Mockingbird. (P) Boo Radley, the scary neighbor down the street, almost never comes out of his house. (P/A) However, on the night of the Harvest Festival, Boo risks his own life in order to save Jem and Scout Finch from the very drunk and the very angry Bob Ewell. (P/A) Even though Scout had passed by the Radley house every day of her life, she had never really known Boo Radley. (P) In fact, she and Jem had always imagined that Boo was a monster who ate squirrels. (A) It is not until the night that Jem's arm is broken that Scout learns that she was wrong. (A) Boo Radley is a kind man who has the courage to do the right thing despite the negative circumstances. (A) Bob Ewell had a knife and could have easily killed the children and Boo, yet Boo did not hesitate to step in and put himself in harm's way. (A) Boo's act of courage in saving the children is similar to Atticus' act of courage in attempting to save Tom Robinson. (A) Both men entered a dangerous situation and did everything they could to rectify it. (A) If Boo Radley had not lived so close to the Finches and had not been such a kind soul, then it is likely that things could have turned out much worse for Jem and Scout. (C/A) By constructing such an intimate little community of individuals, Harper Lee, in the novel, To Kill a Mockingbird, shows us what true courage looks like.