

Final Essay for Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Choose one of the topics below, and then write an essay of no less than four paragraphs in which you thoroughly address the question.

1. A true gift is, in one sense, an unexpected blessing bestowed by a person—or even, perhaps, by fate. Some of them may be objects, while some may be things that cannot be seen but are no less important. Early in the novel, the children find a mysterious shiny package in the knothole of a live oak tree. What gifts are given in *To Kill a Mockingbird*? Why might they be important to the unfolding of the story?
2. Discuss symbolism in the novel. What things or events are symbolic, what are those things symbols for, and how do these things deepen your understanding of the text?
3. Atticus tells his children it is a “sin to kill a mockingbird.” Explain what he meant, how this phrase could relate to different characters in the novel, and the significance to the novel as a whole.

