

Till v. Robinson

Standards:

1. Analyze a particular point of view based on a cultural experience reflected in a work of literature.

Task:

Background Information

In 1955, a 14-year-old African-American teenager was brutally murdered by white men while visiting relatives in Mississippi. His name was Emmett Till. His murder and the subsequent trial of his accused killers became a lightning rod for moral outrage, both at the time and to this day. The case was not just about the murder of a teenage boy. It was also about a new generation of young people committing their lives to social change. As historian Robin Kelley states:

The Emmett Till case was a spark for a new generation to commit their lives to social change. They said, "We're not gonna die like this. Instead, we're gonna live and transform the South so people won't have to die like this." And if anything, if any event of the 1950s inspired young people to be committed to that kind of change, it was the lynching of Emmett Till.

Civil rights activists used the murder of Emmett Till as a rallying cry for civil rights protest, transforming a crime into a springboard for justice.

Based on our reading of *To Kill A Mockingbird*, compare and contrast Emmett Till's cultural experience described above and Tom Robinson's cultural experience in the novel. Provide examples from *To Kill A Mockingbird* to support your analysis. You may write a paragraph(s), Venn diagram, or any other viable way to show the comparison and contrast. Just make sure you hit all the criteria below!

Criteria:

- Describes similarities of the two cultural experiences
- Describes differences between the two cultural experiences
- Provide examples from *To Kill A Mockingbird*
- Written product is clear and concise

Rubric:

Criteria	Weight	Needs Work- 1	Strong- 3
Describes similarities of the two cultural experiences		Similarities are not clearly represented or explained	Similarities are clearly represented and explained
Describes differences of the two cultural experiences		Differences are not clearly represented or explained	Differences are clearly represented and explained
Provides examples from <i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i>	X3	Relevant and specific examples are not used from <i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i>	Relevant and specific examples are used from <i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i> that support the writing
Written product clear and concise		Comparison and contrast is not presented in a clear and concise written form	Comparison and contrast is presented in a clear and concise written form
Total ____ / 18			