

### Talk Show Script for *To Kill a Mockingbird*

This script will give you a guideline for starting and ending the show. You may add in your own comments if you wish, but make sure to stay within the general framework of the script. All words and phrases in *italics* are instructions and should not be read aloud.

Before you start, take a few minutes to decide on the name of your talk show and the name of the host. Read over the lines and take note of any special instructions. If you are playing a character from the book, no lines have been given to you. It is your job to decide what your character is feeling and how he/she would answer. Have fun and be creative!

\* \* \* \* \*

**Host:** Welcome to \_\_\_\_\_ (*Use the name of a popular talk show*). I'm your host, \_\_\_\_\_ (*Host's name*). We've got a hot show for you! Today's topic is "Rape or Racism? Trouble in the Deep South." If you are a parent out there in our TV audience, please be advised that the content of today's show is not appropriate for younger viewers.

Our two main guests are Mayella Ewell and Tom Robinson, both residents of Maycomb, Alabama (*Point out Mayella and Tom*). Last week, Tom Robinson was convicted of raping Mayella Ewell. It might seem strange, but Mayella has agreed to allow us to talk about the situation on the air. This situation has caused major controversy in Maycomb County. The problem is that several respected community members claim that Tom is an innocent victim of racism. In our studio today we also have Tom Robinson's lawyer, Atticus Finch. Atticus argued in court that Tom's handicap would have made it impossible for him to overpower and beat Mayella in the way prosecution witnesses described. Atticus claimed that the real criminal was Mayella's father, who beat her when he discovered her trying to kiss Tom, a black man.

In fact, here in our studio we have Mayella's father, Bob Ewell (*Point out Bob*). We also have Tom's wife, Helen (*Point out Helen*). You, our audience, will need to decide for yourselves whether this is a case of rape...or racism.

Atticus, do you really believe your client is innocent?

**Atticus:** (*Answer as you think Atticus would*)

**Host:** Tom Robinson, after being convicted, do you still insist on your

innocence? Tell us your side of the story. What really happened with Mayella?

**Tom:** *(Answer as you think Tom would)*

**Host:** Mayella, which story is true, the story Tom and his lawyer are telling or the story you testified to in court? What really happened that day?

**Mayella:** *(Answer as you think Mayella would. You can choose to lie or to tell the truth ; however, at some point during the show Mayella should admit the truth so we can learn what she is really feeling.)*

**Bob and Helen:** *(React in some way to Mayella's comments)*

**Host:** As you can see, this issue is pretty controversial. Now I am going to open up the floor for questions from the audience. What are you dying to know about this case?

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**AUDIENCE QUESTION AND ANSWER TIME**

.....  
**CLOSING COMMENTS**

**Host:** Well, it's time to wrap up the show. Who is the real criminal in this case, and who is the real victim? Has justice been served? Until Tom's case comes up for appeal, it's up to you to decide. Join us next week on \_\_\_\_\_ *(name of the show)*. I'm your host, \_\_\_\_\_ *(name of host)*.