

**FILM STUDY GUIDE FOR TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD**  
**SEEING THE FILM THROUGH THE LENS OF MEDIA LITERACY**

**SCREENPLAY** It might be helpful for students to study a page from the screenplay for "To Kill A Mockingbird." Students should also notice that screenwriter Foote includes not only the dialogue, but also directions, which appear below in italics.

*FADE IN. EXTERIOR: MAYCOMB, ALABAMA. DAYBREAK.*

*It is just before dawn, and in the half-light cotton farms, pinewoods, the hills surrounding Maycomb, and the Courthouse Square are seen. A young woman's voice is heard.*

**Jean Louise** (voice over). Maycomb was a tired old town, even in 1932 . . . when I first knew it. Somehow, it was hotter then. Men's stiff collars wilted by nine in the morning. Ladies bathed before noon and after their three o'clock naps. And by nightfall they were like soft teacakes with frosting from sweating and sweet talcum. The day was twenty-four hours long, but it seemed longer. There's no hurry, for there's nowhere to go and nothing to buy . . . and no money to buy it with. Although Maycomb County had recently been told that it had nothing to fear but fear itself.

*(The Finch house and yard are seen. It is a small frame house, built high off the ground and with a porch in the manner of Southern cottages of its day. The yard is a large one, filled with oaks, and it has an air of mystery about it in the early morning light.)*

That summer, I was six years old.

*(Walter Cunningham, a thin, raw-boned farmer in his late fifties, comes into view. He is carrying a crokersack full of hickory nuts. He passes under the oak tree at the side of the house. Scout, six, dressed in blue jeans, drops from one of its branches to the ground. She brushes herself off and goes toward Mr. Cunningham.)*

**Scout.** Good morning, Mr. Cunningham.

**Cunningham.** Mornin' Miss.

Screenplay ©1963 A Pakula-Mulligan, Brentwood Productions Picture  
above ©1997 To Kill A Mockingbird: The Screenplay, McDougal Littell

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**Recommended Website**

Other pages from the screenplay can be found [here](#)

**Recommended Texts**

[To Kill A Mockingbird](#) screenplay

[To Kill A Mockingbird](#) screenplay and related readings

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