

Alexandra

" Sister, I do the best I can with them!" [Atticus talking to Aunt Alexandra.] It had something to do with my going around in overalls." [Scout as the narrator] Chapter 9, page 108.

When Aunt Alexandra scolds Atticus for letting Scout wear overalls, she is conveying to him that wearing such clothing is unladylike and unbecoming of a young girl. However, Atticus claims that he does not mind her choice of clothing. This quote represents a significant part of the book, which is the distinct gender roles in Alabama in the 1930s. Scout is very different from other girls in the sense that she is tough, a little unmannerly, and engages in rowdy activities, such as rolling inside a tire swing. She is not interested in cooking, sewing, or playing with dolls. However, Atticus does not mind her unique behavior.

This quote is important because it gives the reader context for understanding the narrator's personality, and therefore the lens in which she and the reader share throughout the story. I chose this quote because I really admire how Scout is different from the other girls. She likes to play different games and dress differently. I also respect Atticus for not letting Scout be influenced by the gender roles of society that existed in the 1930s in Alabama. He is letting her find her own spiritual quest. In addition, Atticus is reminding his sister that he is a single father and he is not very informed about how a girl should be raised as a "Southern Belle". Scout does not have a traditional female role model in her life, which is part of the reason why she may seem "unpolished".

Noah S

"If Uncle Atticus lets you run around with stray dogs, that's his own business like Grandma says, so it ain't your fault. I guess it ain't your fault if Uncle Atticus is a nigger-lover besides, but I'm here to tell you it certainly does mortify the rest of the family-" Chapter 9, page 110.

This quote, spoken by Francis Finch, Scout's cousin, shows a lot more than what meets the eye. There are two kinds of Finches in this book. The Finches like Uncle Jack, or Atticus, and there are the Finches like Aunt Alexandra. Uncle Jack and Atticus go against the societal norms and are not racists or bigots, they accept people for who they are. The color of one's skin means nothing to them. Atticus will fight for whoever needs fighting for and because of this he is accepting and open to change. The other side of the Finches are racists and bigots. They continue to teach ideals that are unkind and spread hatred. Aunt Alexandra's whole existence is to live by societal norms. Women and girls gossip, cook, wear dresses, are polite, and are not dirty. Just like we discussed in class, the Finches are like Maycomb, two sides of the same coin.

Annie

The quote I chose was, "We'd better keep this and the blanket to ourselves. Someday, maybe, Scout can thank him for covering her up." "Thank who?" "Boo Radley." Chapter 8, page 96.

The first part of this quote was spoken by Atticus when he was explaining that he saw Boo Radley put a blanket over Scout because she was shivering. Scout then asked who Atticus was talking about and he answered Boo Radley. This quote shows that there a lot of rumors that spread quickly around Maycomb. There are so many rumors about the Radley family and especially about Boo Radley that everyone is taught to be afraid of that family and of him. However, in this quote, Boo shows a side of him that nobody has ever heard of or seen. He shows care and warm-heartedness which is something nobody knew he had. Everyone thinks he is a criminal and that that whole family is messed up. Maybe that used to be true, however, people keep on spreading around rumors that they don't know are true or not at this point in time. Therefore, this shows that Maycomb is a town of gossip that not everything people say is accurate and maybe people are saying these things just to tell an interesting story. It also shows how low people think of each other when they don't know what really goes on behind each closed door in Maycomb.