



To Kill a Mockingbird

Harper Lee

A tender, front-porch story about childhood, conscience, and small-town life in 1930s Alabama that opens up gentle, heartfelt conversation.

Reading level: Moderate

Best for: Clubs that love classic novels and slow, soulful conversation by lamplight

Discussion

WARM-UP

1. What was the weather, snack, or spot where you did most of your reading, and how did it shape your mood with the book?
2. Which small moment in Maycomb made you smile or feel a pang of nostalgia for somewhere in your own past?

DIGGING IN

1. Scout's voice has a particular warmth. How did her way of telling the story make you feel as you read?
2. Atticus offers a lot of quiet wisdom. Was there a line or idea of his that landed softly with you, maybe reminding you of someone who raised or guided you?
3. The Finch household, Calpurnia's kitchen, the porch, the treehouse: which setting felt most like a place you'd want to sit a while, and why?
4. Boo Radley becomes a figure of childhood mystery. Was there a 'Boo' in your own neighborhood growing up, and how do you feel about that memory now?

GOING DEEP

1. This book asks us to walk in someone else's skin. When in your life has trying that, even briefly, changed how you felt about a person or a situation?
2. Looking back on the whole story, what feeling did it leave you with as you closed the cover, and what do you want to carry from it into the week ahead?

On the table

Buttermilk biscuits with honey butter

A southern porch staple, warm and comforting like Calpurnia's kitchen

Slow-baked mac and cheese

Homey 1930s Alabama comfort food, perfect for second helpings

Warm peach cobbler with vanilla ice cream

Georgia is close by, and peaches feel like a southern summer evening

To sip

Sweet iced tea with lemon and mint (no alcohol)

The unofficial drink of every southern porch

Spiced apple cider, warm (no alcohol)

Cozy, hand-warming, gentle on the conversation

Bourbon hot toddy

A grown-up nightcap with that slow southern warmth

Run of show

7:00	Welcome and warm drinks Greet guests with cider or sweet tea and let them settle into soft seating
7:15	Comfort food spread Lay out biscuits and mac and cheese family-style; encourage seconds
7:35	Warm-up questions Start gently with the two warm-ups so everyone gets a soft entry
7:55	Theme conversation Move into the theme questions; let pauses linger, don't rush
8:40	Cobbler and deep questions Serve dessert as you ease into the two deeper questions
9:15	Trivia, scorecards, and goodbyes Light trivia round, fill out scorecards, send guests off with a bookmark

HOST TIPS

- Keep lighting low and lamp-warm; candles and throw blankets make people open up
- Let silences breathe. This vibe rewards slow thinking over quick answers
- Have copies of the questions on small cards so shy guests can read theirs aloud

Playlist

Soft southern folk and acoustic Americana, like a screen door creaking at dusk

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|--|---|
| 01 Cluck Old Hen - Alison Krauss & Union Station | 02 Wayfaring Stranger - Emmylou Harris |
| 03 Down to the River to Pray - Alison Krauss | 04 Summertime - Norah Jones |
| 05 Ashokan Farewell - Jay Ungar | 06 Long Time Gone - Chris Thile and Michael Daves |
| 07 Harvest Moon - Neil Young | 08 Carolina in My Mind - James Taylor |

Trivia

1. In what year was the novel first published? (1960)
2. What major literary prize did the novel win in 1961? (The Pulitzer Prize for Fiction)
3. What is the name of the fictional Alabama town where the story is set? (Maycomb)
4. What is the narrator's nickname? (Scout)
5. What is the surname of Scout and her father? (Finch)
6. Harper Lee grew up in which U.S. state, the inspiration for her setting? (Alabama)
7. Which childhood friend of Harper Lee, also a famous author, is said to have inspired the character Dill? (Truman Capote)
8. Roughly which decade is the story set in? (The 1930s)

Rate the book

Coziness

☆☆☆☆☆

Heartwarming Moments

☆☆☆☆☆

Character Warmth

☆☆☆☆☆

Sense of Place

☆☆☆☆☆

Lingering Feeling

☆☆☆☆☆

One word for how this book made me feel: _____

A scene I'd want to step inside for an evening: _____

Someone I want to recommend this to: _____

YOU'RE INVITED

Porch Light On, Pot's Warm

Come curl up for a cozy evening with Scout, Atticus, and a table full of southern comfort. Soft sweaters and second helpings encouraged.



Plan your own book club night

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