

**AP English
Literary Reduction**

Name _____

Title:

Author:

Genre:

Point of View:

Setting/Atmosphere:

Plot development – (include specific details)

Major/Minor Characters:

Symbols/Irony – Connect to Themes

Holistic Interpretation (summary of the story – 1 sentence)

Significance of Title:

Themes:

Three (3) significant quotes (quote, why quote is significant)

AP English Literary Reduction

Name _____

Title:

Author:

Genre: *Novel, drama, epic poem?*

Point of View: *1st person, 3rd person
(limited? Omniscient?)*

Setting/Atmosphere:

Where/When does the story take place AND how does the setting create mood or reflect some other aspect of the author's purpose?

Plot development – (include specific details)

*Do not try to fit in the entire plot. Choose plot elements that connect to **themes** and note **HOW** they connect to the **theme**.*

DO include elements from beginning, middle, and end.

*One way to approach this is to choose one conflict (that leads to theme) and include plot details that show how that conflict **develops** and **resolves**.*

Major/Minor Characters:

*Like “plot,” choose those characters that help you see the **THEME**. How do they connect?*

Symbols/Irony – Connect to Themes

*Choose symbols that you can explain AND connect to **theme**. It's not enough to say that “Exhibit A” is a symbol; you'll have to explain **HOW**. Irony often gives us insight into author's attitude—how does the irony in your text do that?*

Holistic Interpretation (summary of the story – 1 sentence) *Your summary should lead to your **theme** as well.*

Significance of Title: *By “significance” we mean, “How does the title of the book help readers see important aspects of the story – most notably **theme**?”*

Themes: *Don't try to make this a “lesson.” What facets of the **human condition** does the author deal with? What questions does the work raise? What observations does the author advance **about humanity**?*

Three (3) significant quotes (quote, why quote is significant)

*You will need to go into the AP exam with some significant quotations A) memorized and B) analyzed. That's what this box is for. Choose quotations that give insight into the **THEME** and/or to **CHARACTER** development. Choose quotations that you think “speak” for the entire novel.*

AP English Literary Reduction

Name _____

Title: *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Author: Harper Lee

Genre: Novel

Point of View: First Person (Scout)

Setting/Atmosphere: Maycomb, Alabama = Anytown, USA. Everybody knows everybody – which gives the illusion that everything runs smoothly. This sets up Scout's conflict and seeking answers to her questions about things she's always "known."

Plot development – (include specific details)

- Opens with Scout's first day of school – her first trip into the larger world outside her home – she learns that not everyone is like her.
- Atticus takes Tom's case – makes him unpopular. Scout/Jem wonder why.
- Scout fights at school – tries to make others bend to her worldview
- Atticus counsels Scout on seeing things from others' perspective.
- Jem wants Atticus to fight to show he's not weak.
- Tom's trial shows both Jem and Scout that Atticus is not weak.
- Jem and Scout are attacked by Bob Euell.
- Reclusive Boo Radley saves them.

Major/Minor Characters:

Major: Atticus Finch, Jem, Scout

Minor: Tom Robinson, Boo Radley, Mrs. Dubose

Symbols/Irony – Connect to Themes

Mockingbird – symbolic of innocence. Connected to both Tom R. and Boo.

Holistic Interpretation (summary of the story – 1 sentence) Scout Finch reflects on the summer she learned about humanity's tendency to choose "convenient" over "right" and the nature of true courage.

Significance of Title: Atticus forbids Jem to kill a mockingbird because it's a "sin." Maudie explains that mockingbirds are innocent and only seek to live in beauty. Reflects both Tom and Boo's situations.

Themes: Raises questions about **courage** and **justice**. In both cases, we wrestle with the truth that there are no easy answers.

Three (3) significant quotes (quote, why quote is significant)

- "[Courage] is when you know you're licked before you begin but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what." (Atticus) *Shows the determination/resolve that only later answers Scout's/Jem's concerns about injustice.*
- "You never really understand a person. . .until you climb into his skin and walk around in it." (Atticus) *Speaks for the way Atticus treats others but also for the way Scout tries to see the world (with limited success)*
- "Hey, Mr. Cunningham! How's your entailment getting' along?" (Scout) *An innocent statement from a child, this not only breaks up the lynch mob (literally) but figuratively allows us to see the imperfections of those who've set themselves up in judgment of Tom's humanity.*