

- Exploration and development
- Sensitive and critical response
- Developed and analytical comment
- Evaluative comparison or contrast

= A*

To explore and understand how Harper Lee uses language and structure to develop character and theme.

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Some readers may say that Atticus is protective because when he catches Jem trying to deliver a note to Boo Radley he stops him with authority as though his child is in danger. He shows authority by using short sentences and giving orders: “let me see it”, “tell me”. The short sentences also portray anger and this leaves the reader wondering why Atticus is so angry and it is made to seem that the Radley place is a place of danger.

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Atticus is different to the majority of the community in the way he doesn't look down on black people. He disapproves of white people calling black people "nigger". Scout asks Atticus "do you defend niggers?" Atticus shows his disapproval of racism twice with his answer, "Of course I do. Don't call nigger.".... Because the majority of the community use the word "nigger" it shows that Atticus is a morally strong character for not using it. It may also show that he strongly believes in black people's rights. By answering "of course" he almost makes it sound as though he is making Scout feel as though she asked a stupid question. By doing this, he emphasises his point that black people are still human and should be treated the same.

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TASK:

To read and analyse the language used in an extract from *To Kill a Mockingbird* with a focus on how Harper Lee develops the characters and the theme.

Extract one: Atticus' reaction to the Mrs Dubose incident

Extract two: Mrs Dubose

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Two geological ages later, we heard the soles of Atticus's shoes scrape the front steps. The screen door slammed, there was a pause - Atticus was at the hat rack in the hall - and we heard him call, 'Jem!' His voice was like the winter wind.

'Don't you mutter at me, boy! You hold up your head and say yes ma'am. Don't guess you feel like holding it up, though, with your father what he is.'

Jem Finch would come up, and he would gaze at Mrs Dubose with a face devoid of resentment. Through the weeks he had cultivated an expression of polite and detached interest, which he would present to her in answer to her most blood-curdling inventions.

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Think

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IMPACTS

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Plenary:

Explain some of your findings to another pair – what methods are used and what is their effect?