

Maycomb Elementary School Newspaper

The Injustice In Maycomb

By: Jean Louise Finch

Tom Robinson was charged with and found guilty of rape. It's not fair. I believe that he was NOT guilty of the crime he committed. Tom Robinson is a black man, therefore I believe that he was accused because of his race.

I don't know why people discriminate when they don't know a person's background. I believe that the evidence presented against him in the trial was not enough to find him guilty. For example, Mayella testified during the trial. When Mayella was telling her side of the story, she was acting as if she were insecure, and you could tell that she was lying by the way she was shaking and screaming. This point alone, leads me to believe that she wasn't telling the truth. The jury believed her anyway because she is white. I believe that this was unfair to Tom Robinson.

Tom wasn't even given the appropriate amount of time to defend himself and prove his innocence. Every time he tried to talk or make a statement, people would just disregard what he said and didn't even try to understand him. I put the pieces together to assume that



they cut him off so often because they did not want the jury to hear him defend himself because he would convince them of his innocence. While Tom would speak, people would talk down to him as if he were less of a person than them. One example of that was when Mr. Gilmer called Tom “boy” when obviously he is grown man. To me, that just seemed to be foolish and discriminatory. What if you were in Tom’s position? You would want people to listen to you and treat you in a respectful manner.

I am not the only one who believes in his innocence. It’s obvious that many Maycomb County residents agree that his trial was unjust. Even the judge seemed to be upset with the results of the trial. Link Deas, his boss, was able to look past the color of Tom’s skin to speak about the type of man he truly is. Also, the evidence was very clear. When Mayella testified she stated that Tom had violently grabbed her and threw around when it is obvious that Tom could not have done so because he didn’t have much strength in his left arm due to an accident in a cotton gin. Her injuries were mostly on the right side of her face and were obviously inflicted by her father who is left handed. In fact, the evidence that was presented all pointed to Mayella’s father, Bob Ewell. Bob Ewell is a drunk who couldn’t control himself and wants a black man to take the blame.

As you know, in the end, he was found guilty. I repeat, I believe that the only reason why they didn’t believe him was because of his race. Most of the people in our town are white, and did not support him. It did not matter what he said.

I think my dad agrees with me too. At first he wasn’t so sure about supporting Tom during the trial, and thought that people (white people) would start to dislike him, or even try to be violent towards him because of his supposed beliefs. What has bothered me the most is that as soon as people heard that my dad, Atticus, a white man, was defending Tom Robinson, a black man, everyone was being uncivil to him because he was willing to stand up for Tom and refused to go along with them.

Why should it matter what someone looks like? The truth should always prevail but it won’t. People are always going to believe what they want. I for one will never judge a person by what they look like. I hope that some day others will feel the same.