

What is Happening to Maycomb?

by Jean Louise Finch

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Maycomb County has found Tom Robinson guilty of raping Mayella Ewell. Many people have different views on this case whether or not Tom Robinson actually committed the act. Some people in the juries most likely knew that Tom didn't do what he was accused of doing but, they still convicted him as guilty because he was black.

Maycomb needs better juries, ones that judge based on evidence and not skin color. If this continues who knows how many people will be falsely accused and sent to prison? Prison is a bad and scary place, that's what my daddy told me. Tom Robinson is dead because he was shot seventeen times in the back during the exercise period inside the prison. He didn't deserve to die and he shouldn't have even been in the prison in the first place.

The evidence presented at the trial was very little and not reliable. It wouldn't have mattered even if there was no evidence, Tom Robinson would still have been found guilty. Some people may argue that better juries are not needed and that it is perfect the way it is. An example of these people would be Mr. Ewell because he doesn't like "negroes". That is the problem though. What if the situation was flipped? What if everyone

accused white people of doing things just because they're white? They would not be satisfied at all. I would be pretty mad that's for sure.

To make sure there is a brighter and more fair future for all, the world must change. It is not only Maycomb county that does this but, many places. In the Declaration of Independence, it states "that all men are created equal". The Declaration of Independence was created on July 4, 1776. About 150 years after that, we, as Americans, are still not treating people as equals and we're the ones who created the paper. It wouldn't be a good example to other countries to show them that we don't even follow our own rules. I don't like to follow rules either but this is a big rule that needs to be followed.

At this rate, Maycomb County will crumble within a matter of time. We, as people, have failed in our duty to treat others as equals. A man has been sent to jail and died there because of the color of their skin. Have we gone mad? Duh, it was obvious that there was no actual evidence of Tom doing anything to Mayella, The prosecutors relied only on witnesses. The defense countered that by asking for medical papers, questioning the witness and "backing them into a corner". The jury did recess for a few hours than the normal couple of minutes. The reason I

say "normal" is because I know that blacks are usually found guilty of any crime against a white person. Since the the jury took a little while for the verdict, I got my hopes really high, but I was expecting too much. In the end, Tom Robinson was still found guilty.

Imagine how much pain and responsibility is put onto Tom Robinson's wife Helen. She has lost her husband and now she has to work while taking care of the kids. All that jumbled up inside of her is definitely not healthy and what would happen if something happened to her? Who would take care of her kids? A better question is, would the kids be alright? This is what happens when juries send a good man to a bad place because of someones skin. The suffering and pain inflicted because of a color. This needs to end. A solution is better juries. Once again, the juries should be ones who convict people based on evidence, not on the color of their skin. We are the ones who can change the future for the better. I've decided to step up and even get help from others. For example, this editorial that you're reading was edited by Calpurnia, my chef, and Atticus, my dad. Without them, I don't think anybody would want to read my editorial. They would just think I'm just some loud, crazy, tomboy, kid who knows nothing. That would make me

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upset because I really want people to read this and I want to make a change for the better. Anyway, having editors can be fun; especially when it's your friends or family members. You learn on how to improve your writing skills with an editor and that editor gets to learn about you and your view on certain things. You will also be spending time together so you'd be able to get to know each other and possibly make a new friend or strengthen the one you have already. Atticus and Calpurnia have been a big help to me, encouraging me to learn and offering to read to me. My teacher thinks that my daddy should stop reading to me, but I don't want that. You may be thinking that we're still young and we're only in elementary school; what could we do to make a difference? I'll tell you this, big things come from little packages.

