

# Mr. Robinson Reveals The True Maycomb County

*By Miss Maudie Atkinson*

I am sure you have all been aware of the events that have taken place in the last few weeks concerning Mr. Robinson: his trial, the verdict, and his tragic death. In my opinion all three of these things are unfair and unjust. In fact, I did not even go to the trial, because I did not think it was humane to prosecute an innocent man publicly. There was one man, however, who was brave enough to speak his mind; Atticus Finch. He did a wonderful job defending Tom Robinson despite how things ended up. Tom Robinson's death, and trial was not right in any way, shape, or form, but at least Atticus stood up for him.



I, Miss Maudie Atkinson, did not go to the hearing, for I thought that it was morbid to go witness a man be put on trial, as if it were some show--especially when the man was innocent, but would not be proven to be so, because of the mindset of our town. But I did hear that the jury took a long time to come to a final decision. Although I am not very pleased by the outcome of the trial, or the inevitability of Tom Robinson, being seen as guilty because of his race, I do feel a twinge of hope that our town is improving. Because the jury took a longer time to reach a verdict, it means that there was at least one person in that jury who believed in Mr. Robinson's innocence and was brave enough to say so. This makes me happy and hopeful for future generations and I hope that it does the same for you.

I am very proud of Atticus Finch. I am proud to call him my friend, neighbor, and a citizen of Maycomb County. He did an amazing job of defending Mr. Robinson from what I know. He proved that Tom Robinson was innocent, and then some. He disproved all the lies that Mayella and Bob Ewell claimed to be true. He also had proof for why Tom could not have violated Mayella, because of his hand being caught in a cotton gin. I was also quite amazed by what he revealed to us about the Ewell household, the life of Mayella, and the actions of Mr. Ewell without directly addressing that, or showing that that is what he meant to do. Atticus's tactics are very impressive, and seem to work well. There were several instances where the person on trial said something that they did not mean to. I am very impressed With Atticus's work on this case, and how he held his head high despite all the cruel-hearted comments people were making about him defending a colored man.

It is very unfortunate that Atticus was not convincing enough to dispel the jury's racist ways and beliefs. What makes me even more sad is that Tom Robinson gave up despite all of Atticus's beliefs in him getting an appeal. Unfortunately, Mr. Robinson lost hope, and decided to take matters into his own hands, instead of leaving his future up to Atticus. I must say, this makes some sense, if you are not a person who knows Atticus as well as I do. When Tom Robinson decided he could wait no longer, he ran. He ran for freedom, and he almost got it. He was halfway over the fence, but was shot seventeen times before he made it. It is very sad that violence was used immediately to take his life, instead of going after him and trying to arrest him. I hope that he is remembered for the good things he did, instead of the awful things he was accused of.

The past few weeks have taught me much about Maycomb County. It taught me about how stubborn it can be, and sometimes it is as hard as cement. But I have also been reminded about how kind people can be, and they will strive for justice no matter what. These past few weeks have shown me the best and the worst of Maycomb. I wish that Maycomb would change in many ways, though in many others I wish it to stay the same, but it is not time to worry yet.