Thematic Analysis Essays:

A Comparative Analysis of *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Scripture

8th Grade Honors English

Period 7
Bravery Found in Unlikely Places

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Junior Division

Thematic Analysis Essay

Paper Length: 768
When people think of bravery they often think of a large, husky man or a fearless general in the army, but bravery and strength can come from very unlikely places. In the book *To Kill A Mockingbird*, the author Harper Lee portrays bravery not in a fierce MMA fighter or a stern army officer, but in a frail old woman, Mrs. Dubose. In the Bible, another text known by Catholics and many other people around the world, Jesus Christ, a poor man raised in poverty and never called much attention, put his bravery to the test at a wedding one day. In *To Kill A Mockingbird*, the Bible, and in today's world, people often overlook the greatest acts of bravery not because people fail to witness them, but because people overlook courage from unlikely places.

In Harper Lee’s *To Kill A Mockingbird*, many brave characters such as Atticus, Calpurnia, and Scout demonstrate courage, but one character’s bravery came from an unlikely place, Mrs. Dubose. Mrs. Dubose, a frail and cantankerous old woman, suffered as a morphine addict. She was ill and over time became addicted to the medication and felt she could not live without it. After years of living with her illness, Mrs. Dubose was told she was going to die. After receiving this news, Mrs. Dubose decided she wanted to start over in eternal life and have a clean slate by overcoming her addiction. She went through days of pain and suffering just to overcome this major obstacle. Atticus talks to his children after they spent time with Mrs. Dubose, “Scout and Jem had only seen bravery as a strong soldier of a fierce game hunter but after spending time with Mrs. Dubose they learned bravery was so much more.”¹ Mrs. Dubose demonstrated bravery by conquering her addiction. In *To Kill a Mockingbird* readers found bravery in the unlikely character of Mrs. Dubose; the Bible also reveals bravery in unassuming places.

Just like in *To Kill A Mockingbird*, some people overlook the greatest acts of bravery told in the Bible. Jesus’ first miracle of turning water into wine is a prime example of an overlooked act of bravery. Jesus attended a wedding and nervously hesitated to make his ministry public and teeters in his decision to preform a miracle. Just like in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, people overlook the great acts of bravery told in the Bible. Jesus turning water into wine is a prime example.

Jesus attended a wedding with his mother and his apostles, when the wine at the wedding ran short he hesitated to perform the miracle and make his ministry public.

When the wine ran short the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine” and he said to her “Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servers, “Do what he tells you.” Now there were six stone what're jars each holing twenty to thirty gallons, Jesus told them, “Fill them with water.” So they filled them to the brim. 

At first when Mary told her son the wine had run short, Jesus hesitated to perform the miracle but then later agreed. He put aside his nerves and performed the miracle that saved the wedding and began his public ministry. This shows that nobody expected a poor man to perform this miracle and save the wedding, thus showing bravery in an unlikely place.

In today's world, many people only view bravery as a tough MMA fighter or a stern army general. While these people demonstrate courage on a daily basis, many people often overlook small everyday acts of bravery. In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Mrs. Dubose beat an addiction. In *The New American Bible*, Jesus turned water into wine. Both sources demonstrate how bravery is found in unlikely places.

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2 John 2:1-11
Annotated Bibliography

Secondary Sources

Book


I used the book, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, to write about the acts of bravery depicted by characters in the book. This book discusses social issues such as sexism and racism. This book supported the claims in my essay I made about Mrs. Dubose and what Atticus said about her.


I used the *New American Bible* to make the connection between Mrs Dubose’s act of bravery to Jesus’. I also used the Bible to tell the story of when Jesus turned the water into wine at the wedding at Cana.
One Man’s Actions Represent All:

The Power of Words

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Thematic Analysis Essay

Paper Length: 533
In *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Harper Lee proves that in order to get rid of evil, everyone must be treated fairly. She does this through quotes and conversations throughout her story. She explains how people in the real world should treat others in the face of racism and inequality. These modern day problems still exist in our society. Lee speaks about these problems through characters such as Atticus Finch. The Bible further provides examples of how others should be treated. Both *To Kill A Mockingbird* and the Bible teach that the search for equality persists overtime and can only be overcome with fair treatment to all.

In *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Atticus Finch an attorney, attempts to rid Maycomb of racism by representing a falsely accused African-American man in spite of racial tension. When asked to explain his reasons for defending the innocent man, he states, “The main one is, if I didn't I couldn't hold my head up in town, I couldn't represent this country in legislature, I couldn't even tell you or Jem to do something again.”\(^1\) Atticus opposes racism, defends Tom Robinson regardless of his skin color. Racism spreads like a disease taking over Maycomb, and Atticus tries to fight it by defending Mr. Robinson in order to promote equality. Just like Atticus, the Bible also promotes equality, as seen in Jesus.

The Bible promotes equality and social justice. Jesus proclaimed, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”\(^2\) Jesus lived this quote in the story of the tax collector, Zaccheus. No one appreciated Zaccheus since he stole money from everyone, yet when Jesus saw the tax collector’s eagerness to see him, Jesus offered to dine with him. This story and quote both help support the idea of equality and social justice.

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\(^2\) Mark 12:31
Both in the Bible and *To Kill A Mockingbird* provide quotes and stories that support the need for equality throughout our world. Atticus worked for equality by defending a falsely accused African-American, and Jesus demonstrated social justice by changing a tax collector’s life. These leaders worked to rid the world of violence by treating everyone fairly.
Annotated Bibliography

Secondary Sources

Books


In *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Harper Lee expresses her feelings on racism through quotes and conversation the characters have. It relates to what African-Americans had to deal with during the Great Depression. In the African-American church in the novel, they talk about one of their own being accused of rape, though he did nothing wrong. Harper’s message is, in order to rid the world of evil, you must rid the world of racism.


The Bible provides examples of getting rid of evil, through the actions Jesus took. An example is seen through a tax collector. None appreciated the tax collector since he would steal from all the people, yet when Jesus came he chose to dine with him. This is a parallel to Atticus and Mr. Robinson since none liked Mr. Robinson because of his skin color, yet Atticus still chooses to defend him.
Courage Can be Seen in Unlikely People

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Thematic Analysis Essay

Paper Length: 575 words
Courage is not always found in the hero of the story. Courage can be seen in unlikely people. In the story of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Atticus is thought to be feeble. At the time, his children only knew that Atticus read books, played chess, and worked in an office. Atticus, nearly blind in his left eye, also wore glasses. He never hunted, never played poker, never fished, or never smoked. Jem and Scout thought of their father Atticus as old and boring. But when the time came, Atticus answered the call to use his talents and demonstrate courage. In the Bible, Solomon also demonstrated courage with the help of his father. Both *To Kill a Mockingbird* and the Bible demonstrate that courage can be seen in unlikely people.

In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Atticus showed courage by picking up the gun that Mr. Tate handed him and firing it at the mad dog. Atticus showed courage by using his talents to keep his neighborhood safe. *To Kill a Mockingbird* describes,

> With movements so swift they seemed simultaneous, Atticus’s hand yanked a ball-tipped lever as he brought the gun to his shoulder. The rifle cracked, Tim Johnson leaped, flopped over and crumpled on the sidewalk in a brown-and-white heap.¹

Atticus used his determination to execute his skill, thus showing his true courage. The courage shown in Atticus can also be seen in Solomon from the Old Testament in the Bible.

In the Old Testament, God asked Solomon to build temples so others could worship and pray to him. Solomon used his courage to overcome the doubt of the quality of his work and ability to complete his task from God. The Old Testament explains,

> David also said to Solomon his son, “Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished.”²


² 1 Chronicles 28:20
Solomon received encouragement and strength from both his father David and God. Solomon showed his true courage when he overcame self-doubt and completed God’s command.

In *To Kill a Mockingbird* and the Bible, both Solomon and Atticus were either seen as not ready for their jobs from either themselves or in others. They still overcame doubt and completed their tasks. Solomon finished his job with encouragement and strength from David and God. Atticus used his talent that he wanted to never use again until it was needed and completed his job. Both these men, who wrestled with doubt, still triumphed over the fears and completed the task set before them.
Annotated Bibliography

Secondary Sources

Books


I used descriptive words and phrases found in Chapter 10 of *To Kill a Mockingbird* to show what Atticus’ children thought of him before Atticus’ showed them the courage inside of him.


In the Bible I used a quote from the Old Testament to compare what Atticus had to do and what Solomon had to do. It helped me understand the courage Solomon showed his father David.
Stepping Up When the Time is Right

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Thematic Analysis Essay

Paper Length: 545
The ability to step up at the right time can greatly impact the community and the whole world. When someone has the courage to do something no one else does, it shows the power behind that person. In Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Atticus, a lawyer and a father of two children, shoots a mad dog, saving the street. The book takes place in a time period where hatred persists. The mad dog represents the townspeople’s habit of showing hatred to people who are different from them. When Atticus shot the mad dog it showed his determination to help the town and world become a better place. In the Bible, Jesus Christ died on the cross to save the world from sin. He loved everyone equally and went throughout the world proclaiming God’s word, thus making the world a better place in which to live. The Bible and *To Kill a Mockingbird* displayed people’s attempt to make the world a better place and the benefit of them doing so.

In Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the main character Atticus saves the street in Maycomb from a mad dog that got loose. The mad dog represents the disease of hatred that constantly tears down the town of Maycomb. Harper Lee states, “People generally see what they are looking for, and hear what they listen for.” In Maycomb, people often showed hatred to people different from them. Everyone is a human being, and all should be treated equally. In *To Kill a Mockingbird* and the Bible, Atticus and Jesus continuously tried to make the world a better place with less hatred and more peace.

In the Bible, Jesus teaches that all humans are equal and that everyone should be shown love. He shows love and kindness towards every person no matter who they are or what they believe. Jesus came from Heaven, and later died on the cross to protect the world from sin. He died for everyone, not a specific group. The Bible says, “Rich and poor have something in

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common, The Lord is the maker of them all.\textsuperscript{2} The Lord made everyone with the same human
dignity and power to contribute in making the world a better place. The Bible shows that Jesus
stood up at the right time to save the world from sin, hatred, and to make the world a more
friendly place to live everywhere, for everyone.

Both the Bible and \textit{To Kill a Mockingbird} show that stepping up when the time is right
can greatly impact the community and world. Jesus died on the cross to save the world from sin,
as told in the Bible. Jesus gave everyone the option to love Him and live happily with Him
forever. In \textit{To Kill a Mockingbird}, Atticus took control when no one else did. He showed
leadership and determination to make the world a better place. By killing the rabid dog, Atticus
showed that he is willing to help anyone no matter who they are, thus killing the disease of
hatred. The Bible and \textit{To Kill a Mockingbird} both provide examples of how people stood up,
took control, and made the world a better place one step at a time.

\footnotesize{\textsuperscript{2} Proverbs 22:22}
Annotated Bibliography

Secondary Sources

Books


The famous novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, talks about racism in the small town of Maycomb, Alabama. It helped me realize that not everyone will always have the same point of view, and some will be very angry with your choices. In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, one of the main characters Atticus represents a black man in court. By making this choice, his children received a lot of hatred and heard their father called very disrespectful names. Even through this hard time, Atticus encouraged his children not listen to what people say and to do what they think is right.


The Bible is a book composed of all the stories of Jesus’ life, including before and after. It tells us how we should live our lives everyday. In the Bible we learn how Jesus treated everyone equally no matter who they were.
Even a Rose Needs the Rain

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Thematic Analysis Essay

Paper Length: 500 words
A rose exists as one of the most beautiful flowers. Its intricacy and color make it one of the most interesting to study. But even the most beautiful roses wilt if they lack the nourishment of the rain. The rain gives the flowers what they need to flourish, to thrive. The same could be said for Scout in To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee. Scout, a very independent child, holds strong beliefs and a tough demeanor. However, she will not achieve her fullest potential if she fails to listen to Atticus, her father. Mary Magdalene also exemplifies a rose who would wilt if her demons failed to be driven away. Once Mary Magdalene began following God, she possessed the ability to reach her fullest potential as an apostle of Jesus. Both To Kill a Mockingbird and the Bible demonstrate how even the most beautiful flowers, Scout and Mary Magdalene, need the raining nourishment of their fathers and friends.

When people request a description of Scout Finch, most respond with words similar to hard-headed, stubborn, or curious. While those can, of course, be valuable assets for a young, thrill-seeking child, they could also lead Scout down a path of trouble for her in the future. Thankfully, she has her father, Atticus. Atticus, a compassionate man, thirsts for his children to be the best selves they can possibly be. Atticus believes in Scout and enriches her traits to guide her to reach her fullest potential. Atticus implored,

> You just hold your head high and keep those fists down. No matter what anybody says to you, don't you let 'em get your goat. Try fightin' with your head for a change…it’s a good one, even if it does resist learning.¹

Atticus taught Scout how to channel her frustration and use her brain to argue instead of using her strength, to use her mind instead of resorting to violence. She would have to abandon her

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sinful ways of reacting to rude remarks the same way Mary Magdalene had to abandon her
demons to live out the holy life God had planned for her.

People know little about Mary Magdalene before she began traveling with Jesus except
that Jesus casted seven demons out of her. Mark writes, “When he had risen, early on the first
day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven
demons.”2 Luke also speaks of Mary Magdalene, “…and some women who had been cured of
evil spirits and infirmities, Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out.”3

Jesus cast the demons out of Mary Magdalene, leaving behind a woman who wanted to follow
God, a rose that had been rid of infection and been given the cool rain.

To Kill a Mockingbird and the Bible exhibit roses, Scout and Mary Magdalene, who
simply need the rain, Atticus and Jesus, to thrive. The rose, Mary Magdalene, not only needed
Jesus to banish her demons, but to also act as a teacher. Scout only needed the rain and support
of her father to blossom into her best self. The rose is a novelty of nature. A perfectly imperfect
creation of God. The rose needs only one thing, the nourishment of water. No matter how
beautiful the flower may be, no matter how vibrant the color, or how soft the petals, even a rose
needs the rain.

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2 Mark 16:9
3 Luke 8:2
Annotated Bibliography

Secondary Sources

Books


*To Kill a Mockingbird* provides an amazing example of a person who only needs a small amount of guidance to show her best self. Scout proves that she can thrive in a small town where she is constantly reminded of the shortcomings of being a female.


The Bible gives insight on Mary Magdalene’s journey from living life as a sinner to becoming what would be equivalent to an apostle.
Saving Others Leads to Peace

Hannah Cullum

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Thematic Analysis Essay

Paper Length: 631
Everybody says to be brave and that they would do anything to see peace in the world at one point. Many people fail to understand that peace can be created by stepping up and doing little actions. In the book *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, Atticus portrays Jesus in several different scenarios. Even though Atticus did not have as much popularity as Jesus, Atticus still decided to take on the challenge. Just like Jesus, Atticus saved others from harm. When Jesus and Atticus saved others, they created peace. Atticus saved everyone by shooting a dog that went crazy. The people of Maycomb could live in peace after the dog died. In the Bible, Jesus saves everybody by dying on the cross. Jesus gave everybody peace by guaranteeing eternal life to all. With Jesus as people's savior, people can live in peace. In the book *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Atticus mirrors Jesus' actions of saving others to create peace.

Harper Lee shows a character stepping up and being brave to save a community. Atticus, a citizen of Maycomb, shows his bravery in an unlikely way. Atticus heard that Maycomb housed a diseased dog, and the dog found its way out of his home. The diseased dog could affect everybody if nobody took action. Atticus decided to shoot the diseased dog to save the neighborhood. Everyone in Maycomb no longer worried about a diseased dog running around freely, thanks to Atticus. For Atticus, stepping up came almost naturally. Miss Maudie, a character in the book, stated, “It looked like that gun was a part of him…”¹ This quote means that Atticus felt confident with his gun in hand, and he knew what actions he needed to take. Atticus did not think twice about shooting the dog because he knew by shooting the dog, he would protect many citizens of Maycomb. Atticus truly showed bravery just like Jesus did by dying on the cross.

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Jesus ultimately shows the greatest example of saving others to lead to peace. Jesus died on the cross and saved everybody from sin. Because Jesus died on the cross, everybody can have peace knowing that eternal life waits for them after their death. Jesus saved people from sin, even though he knew it would cause him a great deal of pain. Those who choose to believe in Jesus reaped salvation in the end. The Bible states, “Salvation belongeth unto the Lord: thy blessing is upon thy people.”\(^2\) This quote means that the Lord, Jesus, brought His salvation, and everybody on earth receives the rewards of eternal life and peace. Another verse from the Bible states,

> He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.\(^3\)

This means that Jesus saved us, not because of self effort, but because Jesus knew that saving the world leads to peace and happiness forever. Jesus shows the greatest example of saving others to lead to peace.

Just like Jesus saved everybody from sin and created peace, Atticus saved everybody in Maycomb in the book *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. In the Bible, Jesus died on the cross to purchase eternal life, and having eternal life gives everybody a peace in mind. Even though Atticus did not save everybody like Jesus, he still saved everybody in Maycomb from a diseased dog. Both Jesus and Atticus portray how saving others can eventually lead to peace.

\(^2\) Psalm 3:8  
\(^3\) 2 Timothy 1:9
Annotated Bibliography

Secondary Sources

Books


*To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee covers the topic of saving others and creating peace. If you focus on this topic throughout the book, then you will find various examples.


In the Bible, you will find many examples of Jesus saving others and creating peace. The main example is when Jesus died on the cross to save everybody and gave us the peace of eternal life.
Equality: In God’s Eyes

Cian Garza

Junior Division

Thematic Analysis Essay

Paper Length: 495
God created all equally. Even though God made everyone unique, he made everyone with the same rights and responsibilities. Throughout all of history, inequalities existed among different cultures, ethnicities, races, and genders. In *To Kill A Mockingbird*, a lawyer Atticus defends a black man Tom Robinson accused of rape. Atticus tells Scout, his daughter, that even though he knows that he will lose the case, he must take the case in order to uphold pride in himself. Even though Atticus defends Tom Robinson, Tom will still lose because of the color of his skin. Society still gave special privileges to the lowest of the lowly white people over a black person during the Great Depression. In the Bible, scripture teaches us that God made the rich and the poor equal. Both the Bible and *To Kill a Mockingbird* show two great men and how they fought for equality in the world.

The book *To Kill A Mockingbird* shows Atticus fighting for equality in his community and the world. Atticus defended a black man accused of rape.

"Scout," said Atticus, "n-word lover is just one of those terms that don't mean anything—like snot-nose. It's hard to explain—ignorant, trashy people use it when they think somebody's favoring Negroes over and above themselves. It's slipped into usage with some people like ourselves, when they want a common, ugly term to label somebody."¹

Atticus explains that the white people in Maycomb feel threatened by Atticus for defending a black man. Atticus and Jesus fight for a better world where everyone is equally treated.

The *Bible* shows many examples of inequality. Jesus was laughed at and called names while he was carrying his cross. Jesus says, "love your neighbor as yourself and their is no commandment greater than this."² Jesus was not treated equally. He was called a coward for healing people and saying that he is the king of the Jews. Jesus pushed for equality in the world.

² John 13:34
Both the Bible and *To Kill A Mockingbird* show two great men, and how they fought for equality in the world. The Bible says that all people were made equal and treated equally. In *To Kill A Mockingbird* Atticus fights for equality in his community. In God’s eyes we were all created equally.
Annotated Bibliography

Secondary Sources

Books


The classic novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* is a very moving story. This source was used to learn about the story of Atticus defending Tom Robinson because he is accused of rape.


The Bible provides the instructions for the Roman Catholic faith. It gives the stories about the prophets and the early believers of God. It also tells about the life and death of Jesus.
The World Could be so Much Better:

Humility at Its Finest

Daniel Garza

Junior Division

Thematic Analysis Essay

Paper Length: 777
Humility begins with a bearer of a trait and how he keeps that characteristic personal. Never should a talent become a tool to intimidate or to become better than another human being. Atticus “Ol’ One Shot” Finch demonstrates this topic of humility well. Atticus at first seems like any other lawyer, he does not participate in any sport, nor does he do anything physical; the only game that Atticus plays is checkers, and he still defends his title as the best checkers player in all of Maycomb, a county in Alabama. No child, not even his children, would assume that he holds the record for the “deadest shot in all of Maycomb County.”1 Atticus used his shotgun abilities to save the county from a rabid dog. Atticus relieved the county from the horrible dog just as David stopped the giant Goliath and kept the Israelites safe from harm. Harper Lee’s To Kill a Mockingbird personifies the idea of humility and how that can lead to a better world and can change how people think of the feeble and elderly.

To Kill a Mockingbird, by Harper Lee, illustrates the idea of humility well through the character Atticus. In chapter ten, a dog Tim Johnson goes out of control and alarms the whole town. Atticus, a feeble, intelligent fifty-year-old, demonstrates his profound marksman ability to kill the dog. His children, Jeremy “Jem” and Jean Louise “Scout” Finch, become baffled at their father’s sharpshooter talent and question him on why their father did not tell Jem and Scout about his skill. Atticus responds saying not to communicate his expertise. Jem creates the assumption that if Atticus took pride of his ability, then he would have told everyone in the town. Unsatisfied with their father’s answer, Jem and Scout question their neighbor Mrs. Maudie Atkinson. She responds,

If your father’s anything, he’s civilized in his heart. Marksmanship’s a gift of God, a talent—oh, you have to practice to make it perfect, but shootin’s different from playing the piano or the like. I think maybe he put his gun down when he realized that God had given him an unfair advantage over most living things. I guess he decided he wouldn’t shoot till he had to, and he had to today.²

Atticus’ humility shows because only the people whom he grew up with and saw his rifle shooting ability know about this trait. Atticus shows his humility, and just like in To Kill a Mockingbird, the Bible personifies the iota of humility amazingly with the story of David and Goliath.

The Bible illustrates the concept of humility through the story of David and Goliath by showing that David kept his exceptional sling ability personal. David, a shepherd's boy, never took pride in his trait and used his strength to assist his people, just how Atticus used his ability to save his neighbors. Once his people’s enemy’s best soldier, a ten-foot giant named Goliath, confronted the Israelites, David stepped up to help his people. He said, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”³ The commander refused to let him fight, so David responded,

> Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.⁴

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² Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird, 101.
³ 1 Samuel 17:32
⁴ 1 Samuel 17:34-37
He trusts in his ability the Lord bestowed upon him and slain the giant, letting the Israelites overpower their enemies. David kept his ability hidden until needed, demonstrating massive humility.

*To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee, establishes humility by showing Atticus’ abilities and communicates never to overlook the weak and elderly, for they might possess a unique talent or gift from God. The Bible personifies humility through the story of David and Goliath as well as *To Kill a Mockingbird* embodies humility through Atticus. Even though both of these books show differences, one similarity prevails; both characters strive to make their world a better place by using humility.
Annotated Bibliography

Secondary Sources

Books


I used chapter ten of the book To Kill a Mockingbird. This classical text, set in the 1960s, helps me to prove the point of humility by using the character, Atticus, and his ability to shoot a shotgun to show an example of the trait.


I used 1 Samuel 17, the story of David and Goliath to show how unexpected traits in the weak and elderly can prove to be useful. David, a young shepherd, volunteered to take on the enemy’s most hardened soldier, a ten-foot giant named Goliath. David, using a sling, defeated Goliath with no assistance from his people, only his God. I alluded to the source to make my argument clearer.
Preserve the Innocence

Devin Henry

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Thematic Analysis Essay

Paper Length: 689
When surrounded by racism and hatred, innocence proves difficult to preserve. When an entire town opposes any black person just because of the color of his or her skin, it becomes more challenging for Atticus to keep Jem and Scout away from all of it. Atticus, a lawyer in Maycomb with two children, attempts to balance life and work while defending an innocent black person, Tom Robinson, he tries to keep his children away from racism. Jesus traveled the world and always wanted to see the innocent children, as well as maintaining innocence just as Atticus did for his children. *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and the Bible both demonstrate how shielding children from the problem helps them to keep their innocence.

Harper Lee perfects the way of showing how to demonstrate the best out of the worst. When his daughter Scout gets picked on at school for her father Atticus defending a black person, he realizes that he needs to keep his children away from all of the racism occurring in the town of Maycomb. Atticus said, “But before I can live with other folks I've got to live with myself.”¹ Atticus attempts to show his children they need to feel content with themselves before they judge anyone else. Atticus, as a strong role model, eventually explains what racism is and why he and his children will never act in a racist manner towards others based on the color of their skin. The Finch family employs a black person named Calpurnia. Calpurnia works and lives as part of the family and serves as the mother role model for Scout and Jem. They treat her with respect just like any other authority figure. Atticus preserved his children’s innocence by shielding them and by treating everyone with dignity and respect, just as Jesus nurtures and protects the children of the world.

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The Bible also seeks to preserve the innocence of children by shielding them from hatred. Many children see malicious events, and they tend to grow up acting inappropriately as adults. Jesus went around and tried to see and talk to children. As it says in the Bible, “You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe and shudder.” God always offered peace, and people still choose hatred. Jesus wants children to retain innocence in their lives to make the world a better place. Jesus demonstrated through children how to preserve and cherish innocence.

The Bible and *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee demonstrates the power of innocence. Atticus taught his children about equality among black people and white people. Jesus taught the children about God and the importance of innocence. Both of these books demonstrate the importance of child innocence.

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2 James 2:19
Annotated Bibliography

Secondary Sources

Books


This novel provides actual insight to racism and how black people used to be treated. It describes the culture during the Great Depression and how everyone was treated back then. It also shows the difference of speech from then to now.


The Bible shows examples of Christ and all of his ways. It shares stories about Christ and his miracles and how we should act and treat others today. Jesus showed love to everyone no matter how badly they treated him, and that's what we should be doing today.
Bravery Lies Within the Smallest People

Faustin Leonard

Thematic Analysis Essay

Paper Length: 497
Everyone wants to show bravery. Fear may still exist during courageous acts. However, bravery can surprise people like it did in the novel *To Kill A Mockingbird*. The main character Atticus, fathered two white children, named Jem and Scout. Both of Atticus' children thought of him as a lowly, old, and feeble man who did nothing but read books. One day, a mad dog with rabies terrorized the town of Maycomb. Atticus stepped up by taking the gun the sheriff gave him and killed the dog in one shot. After this, his children became proud to have Atticus as their father. Similarly in the Bible, people considered Jesus as a lowly person until the time he started performing miracles. At the Wedding Feast at Cana, the wedding party ran out of wine. Jesus made more wine by turning water into wine. *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and the Bible demonstrate courage and bravery found in the least of people.

Harper Lee demonstrates Atticus’ bravery in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Atticus saves Maycomb from a mad dog by killing it with a shotgun. Atticus commented to his son Jem later,

I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand. It's when you know you're licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what.¹

This statement explains that even though a person may be unsure of the outcomes, a true hero still tries when necessary. Atticus wanted Jem to thoroughly understand the deeper meaning of bravery by taking a stand for what is right as Atticus defended Tom Robinson. *To Kill a Mockingbird* displays bravery in Atticus as the Bible shows courage through Jesus’ miracles.

Jesus performed many miracles during his public life. But before he performed miracles, he lived as a simple carpenter’s son. His first miracle took place at the Wedding Feast at Cana.

The hosts ran out of wine, so Mother Mary requested Jesus to help them. Jesus ordered the servants to fill the jars with water and take them to the head waiter to be tasted. When he tasted it he proclaimed, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus bravely fulfilled his mother’s request by turning water into wine. The Bible provided a clear understanding of how bravery wonders can be performed by the least people.

To Kill a Mockingbird and the Bible provide great examples of courage found in the smallest people. The Bible showed how Jesus performed his first miracle, and everyone started following him. In To Kill a Mockingbird, Atticus saved the town from a mad dog, and he gained respect from his children. Even the smallest people can surprise others with brave deeds.

2 John 2:10
Annotated Bibliography

Secondary Sources

Books


This book gave me an example of bravery and how it is seen in the smallest of people. I used this as an example in my essay.


This book gave me an example of how Jesus displayed true bravery. I used this as an example in my essay.
Taking a Stand to Help Others

Hally López

Junior Division

Thematic Analysis Essay

Paper Length: 320 words
In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee demonstrates how characters show bravery and courage to save the world. Atticus shows that he can use bravery and courage to overcome the evil in the mad dog. In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the mad dog represents evil spirits as seen in the Bible. Atticus went out of his way to protect Maycomb from evil, just as Christ died to save the world from sin.

In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, a mad dog terrorized the town of Maycomb. The mad dog represents racism in the town, and the dog frightened everyone. With fear Calpurnia told Mr. Finch, “This is Cal. I swear to God there’s a mad dog down the street a piece—he’s comin’ this way, yes sir, he’s—Mr. Finch, I declare he is—old Tim Johnson, yes sir… yessir… yes—”

Cal explains that a mad dog entered the town in a frightened, nervous manner. Then, Atticus found his courage and bravery, and he shot the mad dog dead. The Bible also shows examples of courage and bravery.

In *The New American Bible* Jesus demonstrated courage by entrusting his twelve disciples to rid the world of evil spirits to clear every disease and sickness. “Then he summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness.” Jesus trusted his disciples to help those suffering from evil. By commissioning the disciples, Jesus demonstrated bravery by trusting others.

Everyone in Maycomb knew of the rabid, mad dog. Atticus went out of his way to protect Maycomb from this evil. Jesus trusted his disciples to rid the world of evil spirits. Both Atticus


2 2 Corinthians 4:6
and Jesus took a stand to help everyone they knew and loved. Both the Bible and *To Kill A Mockingbird* show many examples of courage and bravery.
Annotated Bibliography

Secondary Sources

Books


*To Kill a Mockingbird* is a book that shows many examples of bravery and courage. It shows you how people acted and said so long ago. It also shows how they helped each other along the way.


In the Bible, we learn about Jesus’ life. How he died and how he came back to life are the most important parts of the Bible. Jesus showed bravery and courage just like Atticus shows when he kills the mad dog.
Integrity vs. Evil in the World

Cinco Medina

Junior Division

Thematic Analysis Essay

Paper Length: 563
In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee demonstrates that it takes a person with integrity to rid the world of evil. It all starts with the disease of Maycomb, racism. Racism keeps spreading and spreading like an epidemic. Lee symbolizes racism through, a dog, a mad dog. However, Atticus, a lawyer and a resident of Maycomb shoots and kills the disease in Maycomb. He answered his call in life. Atticus shoots the diseased dog and rids Maycomb of racism. This relates to the Bible in many ways. In the New Testament, Jesus gets rid of evil in the temple. Jesus knew that people were not supposed to be selling items in there so he stopped it and got rid of the evil. Both examples demonstrate how it takes people with integrity to get rid of evil. Both Jesus and Atticus posses integrity, and they showed it in their actions.

Harper Lee demonstrates through Atticus that it takes a person with integrity to rid the world of evil. Lee explains how to demonstrate integrity by showing how Atticus who had not shot a gun in forever, he still shot it. Atticus wanted to rid evil in the world, and in this case racism. He used his integrity to end racism. “People in their right minds never take pride in their talents.”¹ Most people fail to use their talents. Atticus put his talent to use demonstrating integrity and thus courage. In *To Kill a Mockingbird* Atticus uses integrity to rid evil in the world, just as Jesus demonstrates integrity.

In the Bible, Jesus shows integrity by getting rid of evil in the temple. He uses his integrity by telling all the people in the temple to stop selling items in God’s house. In this case, the people act with evil intentions, and Jesus gets rid of it by telling them to stop.” Jesus went

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into the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there.”² This is how Jesus and Atticus use integrity to rid the world of evil.

Both Jesus and Atticus show how to use their integrity to get rid of evil in the world. In the Bible, Jesus knows that people should not be selling anything in the temple because it is a place of worship. In To Kill a Mockingbird, Atticus knows that Maycomb is diseased with racism, and Atticus wants to get rid of that so he does what he has to do. All of this demonstrates how both the Bible and To Kill a Mockingbird show integrity.

² Matthew 21:12
Annotated Bibliography

Secondary Sources

Books


In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee explains how a person with integrity can kill evil, but a person without integrity can't. This source shows how an old, feeble man with integrity gets rid of a disease that has been in his town forever.


The Bible shows examples of how Jesus uses his knowledge and integrity to get rid of evil. This source shows how Jesus gets rid of evil using his integrity because he knows that people should not be selling goods in the temple.
Useful or Useless

Avalouisa Newman-Caro

Junior Division

Thematic Analysis Essay

Paper Length: 671 Words
Whether shown or hidden, talents appear in unexpected situations whether wanted or not. Whether they prove to be useful or useless remains decided by how they are presented. In the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Jesus Christ’s use of talents parallels Atticus Finch’s use of his own talents. The Bible unveiled Jesus’ desire to heal sins. He clearly felt healing of the body came to nothing and deemed it useless if the soul remains injured. Atticus passively illustrated his disliking of his talent to shoot accurately. He matured and came to the realization that his talent should not be used for anything but morality. He held no more pride in his shooting than anything else he accomplished, so he decided not to flaunt his talents as Jesus chose not to flaunt his bodily healing powers either. As Atticus held back his talent until it proved useful, Jesus held back his physical healing talent. Atticus also believed shooting continued to be useless until proven useful and Jesus thought bodily healing stayed useless until the soul healing becomes useful. Both men use talents in ways to provide and protect, not to destroy and make envious.

Atticus Finch undoubtedly holds the “best shot” title in Maycomb, but he fails to seem to take pride in it. “I reckon if he'd wanted us to know he’da told us.”1 He shoots the dog, and for the first time his children observe his secret talent that the rest of the neighborhood already observed. Atticus unmistakably found his talent acts useless unless used for morality. He never flaunted his errorless aim because he views it as an unnecessary skill until proven a useful one. After all, why use gifts if they are temporary or useless?

Jesus Christ followed this strategy when preforming his talents as well. He never flaunted his bodily healing powers because he found them of no use. He felt healing the body exists as not the most important quality to gain during time on earth. “He said to the paralyzed man, son your

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sins are forgiven”² The paralyzed man sought Jesus’ bodily healing powers, yet Jesus chose not to prove them to the man just yet. Jesus felt the bodily healing remains useless if the man’s soul stayed battered and worn due to sin. Jesus proved the man’s greatest reward would be in heaven not on earth, so physical healing is deemed useless. Why use gifts if they are temporary or useless?

All talents are unique or they would not be considered talents, but how they are used reflects their usefulness or uselessness. Jesus Christ felt his bodily healing talents continued to stay useless until he gave the paralyzed man eternal life by forgiving sins with morality. Atticus Finch felt his talent to shoot continued to stay useless until he gave his community safer lives by using his talent to protect them, shoot the dog, and prove morality in the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Whether he continues to use his talents for usefulness or uselessness depends on how he presents them.

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²Mark 2:5
Annotated Bibliography

Secondary Sources

Book


*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee helped me realize the importance of the talents we take for granted at times. My essay explained this misinterpretation of talents using Atticus Finch, a character in the book, as an example.


I analyzed the Bible and compared it to the writing in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. While reading about Christ’s journey, I was given a new perspective on his life, as well as, on the life of the fictional characters in the other novel. The Bible gave me a foundation upon which to base my essay.
We Must Not Let Other People's Perceptions Define Us -

Perception is Not Reality

Hayden Patek

Junior Division

Thematic Analysis Essay

Paper length: 640
People's perceptions of each other based on outward appearances may lead to hatred. *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee provides a perfect example of inequality and outward appearances. The character Mrs. Dubose suffered as a morphine addict. Jem and Scout, two young children, lacked knowledge of her addiction. Therefore, Jem and Scout judged her as a rude, terrible, racist, old lady until they found out about her addiction. Jem and Scout judged her based on her outward appearance rather than realizing her condition, which led to hatred. The Bible provides a perfect example of judging others based on outward appearances. The Bible also demonstrates how false accusations lead to hatred through the story of Matthew, the tax collector. Both the Bible and *To Kill a Mockingbird* show how people’s perceptions often defy reality.

Scout and Jem thought terribly of Mrs. Dubose, their neighbor. Mrs. Dubose said terrible comments about Atticus such as, “Not only a Finch waiting on tables but one in the courthouse lawing for niggers.”¹ This made Jem extremely mad, so he took Scout’s baton and damaged her camellia flowers. Little did they know that Mrs. Dubose struggled from an addiction.

Later Mrs. Dubose died, but she overcame her addiction. Atticus said she was, “The bravest person I’ve ever met.”² Then Jem and Scout gained a completely different opinion about her. They now viewed her as a strong and determined as opposed to mean, rude, and old. At first, Jem and Scout judged Mrs. Dubose by her outside appearances, in this case her outside appearance being her attitude, which lead to hatred. This scenario also happens to Matthew, the tax collector.

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² Lee, Harper, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. 
Matthew worked as a tax collector. His fellow Jews despised him for being a tax collector. Many people basically hated him, until one day Jesus came to Matthew and told him, “Follow Me.” Matthew dropped everything and followed him.

That night many tax collectors and sinners came to eat with Jesus and Matthew. That night, Jesus told them, “Go and learn the meaning of the words “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” I did not come to call righteousness, but sinners.” Matthew became a disciple of Jesus. Before he became a disciple, everyone disliked Matthew for being a tax collector. Then, Matthew followed Jesus, and then people followed Matthew. People judged Matthew by his job, a tax collector, and named him a terrible person until he followed Jesus. Matthew refused to let other people's perceptions define him.

Together, To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee and the Bible show how people’s perceptions of others based on outwards appearances may lead to hatred. In the Bible, people judged Matthew by his job just like Scout and Jem judged Mrs. Dubose by her attitude. These wonderful books help others to see how much hatred matters and how one should never judge another by first impressions. People should always get to know others first. Both the Bible and To Kill a Mockingbird display power of perceptions. Both show the power of inequalities.

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3 Matthew 9:9
4 Matthew 9:13
Annotated Bibliography

Secondary Sources

Books


*To Kill a Mockingbird* is a book written by Harper Lee. This was used as a source for inequality. This source helped me understand how terrible inequality is, and it helped me to better understand inequalities and stereotypes.


*The Bible* is a book written by several people, but all the writers were inspired by God. This is obtained as a source used to prove a point about inequalities using verses and quotes from the Bible.
Bravery at Its Finest

Elle Reede

Junior Division

Thematic Analysis Essay

Paper Length: 155
Committing to an opportunity of bravery takes great effort of love, strength, courage, and an uncompromising mind. The true power of bravery comes not only after one has put forth his/her idea, but when the idea results in a positive action put forth towards it. During the Great Depression, a black woman named Calpurnia worked for a white family in a white community. She bravely put aside her culture, language, and religion. The bravest act Calpurnia committed for this family and community occurred when a rabid dog came to the neighborhood and threatened every living being. Calpurnia told the phone operator who announced the presence of the rabid dog throughout the neighborhood. Then, Calpurnia ran outside despite the threat of the dog to the Radley family who did not have phones to communicate the news. Calpurnia risked her life just like the Three Wise Men risked their lives to warn Mary and Joseph about King Herod’s plan to kill Baby Jesus. The Three Wise Men received orders to bring gifts to find the family, only to figure out Jesus’ location to give to King Herod. On their journey to find the family there the Three Wise Men decided to defy Herod and warn the family. 

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and the Bible demonstrate how bravery at its finest shows that even with the chance of death or great consequences, doing good will overpower great evil.

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee demonstrates bravery at its finest through the African-American character Calpurnia. Jem and Scout found a sick dog which Calpurnia discovered to be a rabid dog. Calpurnia told the news of the rabid dog to the phone operator who announced the news of the animal to the entire neighborhood to take refuge until the authorities took care of the situation. “I swear to God there’s a mad dog down the street a piece—he’s comin’ this way,”[1] Calpurnia said to Atticus. The bravery seen in *To Kill a Mockingbird* is also

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seen in the Bible when the Three Wise Men defied King Herod's orders and instead protected Baby Jesus and his family.

In the Bible, the Three Wise Men demonstrate bravery at its finest. King Herod heard news of a new King, a king who would take his thrown.

But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not the least important among the towns of Judah. A ruler will come out of you. He will rule my people Israel like a shepherd.²

This made Herod and all the land of Jerusalem troubled. Herod sent the Three Wise Men to find the new King and pay him homage, but on the Three Wise Men’s return they took a different route because the Angel of the Lord came the night before and told them how Herod planed to kill Baby Jesus after Herod learned of Baby Jesus’ location. Despite the threat of great consequence, the Three Wise Men defied King Herod’s orders. This demonstrates that the power of Christ strengthens bravery in people to do the right thing.

Both the Bible and *To Kill a Mockingbird* show great acts of bravery with the chance of death or consequence. In the Bible, the Three Wise Men protected Baby Jesus defying their orders from King Herod demonstrating bravery. In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Calpurnia protecting the community and the children from a rabid dog demonstrated bravery as well. Both the Bible and *To Kill a Mockingbird* prove that even the most unlikely of people through bravery at its finest will not fall from the force of evil, but rise up in the power of God.

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² Matthew 2:6
Annotated Bibliography

Secondary Sources

Books


The novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, reveals the bravery that had to be taken by African-Americans everywhere during the Great Depression when they entered into white communities. This story portrays an African-American woman who sacrificed herself for the sake of a white family and white community.


The Bible provides evidence of bravery taken by people during the time of Jesus. The Three Wise Men defied Herod’s orders to find the Israelites king’s location so Herod could kill him. These men are a great example of how even if there are great consequences, the power of good will over power great evil.
The Coexistence of Courage and Fear

Laura M. Reilly

Junior Division

Thematic Analysis Essay

Paper Length: 346
Courage and fear can coexist. In *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, Mrs. Dubose stopped taking her medication, despite her illness. She suffered from fits and endured pain. Mrs. Dubose demonstrated bravery in the face of terror by enduring hallucinations in order to break her habit. Similar to Mrs. Dubose, Jesus knew the imminence of his pain and death. Despite his knowledge, Jesus still went through it, even in the face of fear. Mrs. Dubose more than likely held fears about the fits she experienced and the agony she encountered. Mrs. Dubose and Jesus both sacrificed for honorable reasons and demonstrated great courage.

Jesus showed courage in the face of fear all the time. Jesus foresaw his death and suffering. The night before Jesus’ crucifixion, Jesus sweat blood, a testament to his fear. “And in His anguish, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground.”  

Jesus showed courage in the face of fear, just as Mrs. Dubose had.

In *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Mrs. Dubose showed courage in the face of fear. A doctor prescribed morphine to help her illness, but as she took the medications she became addicted to them. Mrs. Dubose wanted to get rid of her addiction, and she showed courage in the face of fear. “‘Mrs. Dubose was a morphine addict,’” said Atticus. ‘She took it as a pain-killer for years. The doctor put her on it. She would have spent the rest of her life on it and died without so much agony, but she was too contrary.’” Mrs. Dubose suffered fits, but she rid herself of her addiction proving great bravery.

Both Jesus and Mrs. Dubose showed courage in the face of fear. Both Mrs. Dubose and Jesus fought temptation. Mrs. Dubose sacrificed a great deal, she endured pain and suffered

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1 Luke 24:44

greatly. Jesus died to save people from sin, he also endured pain and suffered greatly. Showing courage in the face of fear is one of the hardest things someone can do, but these people showed that it is possible.
Annotated Bibliography

Secondary Sources

Books


In Chapter 11, Mrs. Dubose appeared in the story. Scout described her to be an old lady who lives alone and is rude and mean. Every time Jem and Scout passed by her house she would always shout something rude to them. Jem and Scout hated her, but Atticus always said to be kind and treat her with respect because she was old and sick. One day when they were passing through her house she shouted something awful about Atticus and him defending a black man, Jem lost his temper and destroyed Mrs. Dubose camellia bushes. When Atticus heard about it, Jem got a punishment of reading to Mrs. Dubose everyday when he got home from school. After a little over a month, Mrs. Dubose died and Jem received a gift from her. It was a box and in it was white camellia. This book helped me understand and give examples for my thesis writing.


The Bible provides examples of Christ’s ability to spread His message of love and peace by effectively communicating with the people of His time. Jesus understood and reached all people by observing and maintaining customs and cultural traditions while challenging the revision of those conventions to ensure love and mercy for all.
Those Who Can Stand Lend a Hand

Isobella Shannon

Junior Division

Thematic Analysis Essay

Paper Length: 508
The sick, for the most part, remain unaided when it comes to defending their reputation and how they fit into society. Atticus, a lawyer and a father of two children, defends Mrs. Dubose when his son Jem destroys her flowers because she made fun of him. Atticus knows Mrs. Dubose has been sick, so when she asks Jem to read to her, Atticus tells him to do so. Atticus defended Mrs. Dubose even when she acted rudely toward him, as well as, his family. Jesus did the same thing, He stood up for the sick who could not stand, even in the face of ridicule and torture. In Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Atticus expresses love and respect towards the sick and even sinful people in Maycomb, just as Jesus does in the Bible.

Harper Lee describes Atticus as a loving and respectful man towards the sick and the sinful. Mrs. Dubose criticizes Atticus through Jem by saying that Atticus should be perceived as an unacceptable person because he defends African-American people. Jem becomes angry with her comment and uses his sister’s baton to beat down all of Mrs. Dubose’s flowers. Atticus soon finds out about Jem’s response and says, “I strongly advise you to go down and have a talk with Mrs. Dubose.” When Jem returned, he said Mrs. Dubose asked him to read to her after school for a month. Jem argued with Atticus about this consequence until Atticus told Jem that he must go read to Mrs. Dubose as an apology for ruining her flowers. By telling Jem to go read to Mrs. Dubose after she criticized his work showed his true respect and love towards the sick and sinful, just as Jesus did in the Bible.

In the Bible, Jesus also showed love and respect towards the sick and sinful. One day as Jesus taught his followers in the temple, Pharisees and teachers of religious law brought in a woman accused of adultery. They tried to get Jesus to say that she should be stoned, but failed.

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Finally when they kept demanding an answer of him He said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned cast the first stone.”

Jesus then told the woman to go in peace and never sin again. This shows how Jesus knew of the woman’s sin, but he still showed love and respect towards her, just like Atticus.

Both the Bible and *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee show how Atticus and Jesus respect and love the sick and sinful despite their actions. In *To Kill a Mockingbird* Atticus still loves and respects Mrs. Dubose even though she criticized his work. He tells Jem to apologize for his actions, even though Mrs. Dubose disrespected him. This showed Atticus’ love and respect for the sick. Similarly, Jesus showed love and respect for the woman accused of adultery by forgiving her and saving her from the crowd. Both of these examples demonstrate how people can aid the sick and the sinful by just one simple apology.

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2 John 8:1
Annotated Bibliography

Secondary Sources

Books


This source can be identified as a book. *To Kill a Mockingbird* supplied me with quotes and helped me make my comparisons. I learned about some of the experiences that the characters had in this book, and that will help me make my comparisons between it and the Bible. Furthermore, this book has helped me get evidence for this essay.


This source can also be identified as a book. *The New American Bible* has helped me with quotes as well and helped me make comparisons to *To Kill a Mockingbird*. I learned about Jesus and his follower’s experiences in the New Testament. This book helped me understand how Atticus from *To Kill a Mockingbird* could be compared to Jesus.
Compassion:
Treating Others Equally

Diego Trevino
Junior Division
Thematic Analysis Essay
Paper Length: 500
People show compassion for others through care and concern. People should treat each other equally despite the color of one’s skin. Atticus, a humble man in the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, defends Tom Robinson, a black man accused of rape. The town of Maycomb treats Tom Robinson with disrespect and hatred. Atticus, who stood up against all the odds of racism, defended the rights of Tom Robinson, even though he is black. Just like Jesus in the Bible, Atticus stood up for Tom no matter what. Jesus loved and cared for everyone. Jesus cured the man with leprosy regardless of his race or religion. Both the Bible and *To Kill a Mockingbird* show how love and compassion make a difference in the lives of the persecuted.

In the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee demonstrates examples of compassion through the character Atticus. Atticus, a humble, white man, lives in the small town of Maycomb. Most people in Maycomb show hatred toward blacks. They refuse to treat black people with love and respect. In the novel, neighbors referred to black people as dogs. Atticus, a lawyer, defended Tom Robinson, a black man accused of rape. Even though Tom Robinson was black, Atticus stood up against all the odds and defended Tom, even though he knew people disapproved. When Atticus’ own child asked if he defended blacks, Atticus proclaimed, “Of course I do.”  

In the Bible, Jesus Christ also shows compassion towards others. Regardless of race or religion, Jesus treated everyone equally. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus performed a great miracle.

When Jesus came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. And then a leper approached, did him homage, and said, ‘Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean.’ He stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, ‘I will do it. Be made clean.’ His leprosy

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was cleansed immediately. Then Jesus said to him, ‘See that you tell no one, but go show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them.\(^2\)

Jesus cured the man of his leprosy despite his race or social status. Christ showed great compassion towards the man. He not only showed his compassion for the man, but he showed that regardless of race, religion, or gender, Jesus remains steadfast for all.

Both the Bible and *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee show how compassion towards others defines a person. Atticus showed compassion towards Tom Robinson by defending him even though no one would. Atticus defended Tom, regardless of his skin color, because Atticus knew Tom was innocent. Atticus proved compassion by defending Tom Robinson regardless of his race or adverse affects of the trial on his family. The Bible also shows Christ’s compassion towards others. When Jesus cured the man with leprosy, compassion for the man was shown.

Both the Bible and *To Kill a Mockingbird* show compassion towards others.

\(^2\) Matthew 8:1-4
Annotated Bibliography

Secondary Sources

Books


The novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* is about racism and equality towards others. Atticus, a character from the novel, defends Tom Robinson, a black man who was accused of assault. Risking his dignity, Atticus defends the man who was treated unequally just because of his skin color. This source portrays how people were treated because of their race and how we should treat others equally.


*The New American Bible* gives examples of how Jesus treated all people equally no matter what. An example of God’s love and compassion towards others was when Jesus healed the man with leprosy. This source not only shows us God’s love and compassion towards others, but teaches us to treat others equally.
Standing Against the Odds

Rolando Trevino

Junior Division

Thematic Analysis Essay

Paper Length: 518
In *To Kill a Mocking Bird* by Harper Lee, Atticus stands up against the odds when he defends a black man, Tom Robinson, in a time of racism. Mrs. Dubose always insulted Atticus, but Atticus still respected her, and thus stood against the odds. Atticus acted according to his morals, even if that meant standing alone. Almost everyone in Maycomb holds racist views, so Tom Robinson will lose his case despite his innocence. Atticus knows this, but still stands up for him. Accordingly, Jesus knew that he would die, but He still preached and acted with righteousness. Both the *Bible* and *To Kill a Mocking Bird* provide examples of two courageous people who stood against the odds.

In *To Kill a Mocking Bird*, Atticus stands against the odds by following his morals, even if no one agrees with him. When asked by his daughter why he defended Tom Robinson, Atticus said, “If I didn't, I couldn't hold my head up in town, I couldn't represent this county in the legislature, I couldn't even tell you or Jem not to do something again.”\(^1\) Therefore, if Atticus refused to represent Tom Robinson, he felt like he lost the right to tell anyone what to do. In response to standing up for Tom Robinson, many racists from Maycomb persecuted Atticus, but he stood against the odds. Just like Atticus, Jesus also stood against the odds.

In *The Bible* Jesus stood against the odds because he continued to preach for everyone knowing of his imminent persecution and eventual death. “As long as you know that God is for you, it doesn't matter who is against you.”\(^2\) As long as people follow God’s teachings, God will protect them. Jesus always listened to his father and stood against others who disapproved of his

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\(^2\) Romans 8:31
ministry. He stood against the odds and continued preaching even though everyone said he was wrong, just like Atticus.

Atticus and Jesus both stood against the odds. They both acted with integrity and followed their morals. They both knew the negative consequences and danger they would face as a result of their actions, but they still did the right thing. Just like Jesus, Atticus respected those who opposed him and embraced them.
Annotated Bibliography

Secondary Sources

Books


*To Kill a Mockingbird* is a book by Harper Lee. It is about racism, gender equality, and doing what is right. Atticus, the father of the main character, stands against the odds and defends his African-American client. This source is about how Atticus stood against the odds.


In the Bible, Jesus stood up against the odds even though He knew he would die. He still did the right thing even though nobody was with him. Jesus was also kind to all those who persecuted him.
Ridding the World of Evil and Racism

Lily Webb

Junior Division

Thematic Analysis Essay

Paper Length: 341
In the book, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, racism in Maycomb spreads like a disease, and proves challenging to abolish. Atticus, the 50-year-old father of the two main characters, enjoys reading, playing chess, and dislikes guns. A mad dog roams around the neighborhood and everyone fears the dog and wants to get rid of him. Atticus shows bravery during all of this and saves the town. The mad dog represents racism in Maycomb. Without racism or diseases, everything is peaceful. Atticus also gets rid of the evil and racism when he shoots the mad dog just like Jesus got rid evil in the temple where he overturned the tables of people who had been selling items.

Atticus showed great bravery when he shot the mad dog. Many people disbelieved in Atticus’ ability to shoot the dog that Atticus because he dislikes guns.

I think maybe he put his gun down when he realized that God had given him an unfair advantage over most living things. I guess he decided he wouldn't shoot until he had to, and he had to today. ¹

Atticus used his talent to save Maycomb despite his reluctance to use a gun because he felt called to rid the world of evil. The mad dog represents racism and evil because it shows how fast a disease, evil, or racism can travel. Atticus shows the greatest form of bravery by ridding the world of evil as Jesus did.

In the Bible, Jesus rid the world of evil by going into the temple and driving out all the shoppers and merchants. He chose to act with conviction and got rid of evil. “Do not be

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overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”  

Jesus identified corrupt practices in the temple and demonstrated the courage to remove them from a place of worship.

Demonstrating bravery can be challenging, but righteousness and integrity must prevail in the face of racism and evil. Both Jesus in the temple and Atticus in *To Kill a Mockingbird* overcome evil with good.

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2 Romans 12:21
Annotated Bibliography

Secondary Sources

Books


*To Kill A Mockingbird* takes place in Alabama during the Depression. Scout Finch, a young girl, narrates the book. She tells about the courage of her father, Atticus, who shoots a rabid dog. The book contains a lot more problems and mysteries.


The Bible is about God and his creations. It says what God wants us to do. It gives us laws to follow on Earth. There are many stories about almost anything in the Bible. Many of them can relate to today's conflicts.
Don't Be Afraid to Take a Stand

Diego Zambrano

Junior Division

Thematic Analysis Essay

Paper Length: 693
The book *To Kill a Mockingbird* shows how people answer a great call to action to help others who cannot stand up for themselves. This book, written by Harper Lee, tells of a town where racism prevails as a disease. People judge others, prohibiting them from telling their story. Lee shows how when people answer the call to action safety prevails, or rather when people do the right thing or the necessary action, the situation will result in some sort of peace afterwards. In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, a brave man by the name of Atticus Finch shoots a dog with rabies who at the time ran rabid in the town. Atticus brought safety and peace back to the town of Maycomb, and the neighborhood awarded him praise for it. This relates to when Jesus entered the temple, he found merchants selling their goods inside and outside the temple. Jesus became angry and overthrew their tables knocking their goods to the ground, throwing them out of the temple. Jesus brought back sacredness and peace to the temple, standing up for the priests who failed to tell the merchants otherwise. Harper Lee’s book parallels the Bible by people taking a call to action to obtain peace.

Atticus brings peace to Maycomb with his actions and his words. He states, “I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand. It's when you know you’re licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what.”¹ As opposed to overpowering others, Atticus considers courage standing up in the face of certain failure. Real courage entails standing up for one’s beliefs and fighting for justice even in the face of failure. This parallels the Bible since both books demonstrate many times where people answered the call to action and stood up in the face of failure.

The Bible includes many quotes that express the thought of answering the call to action and standing up for one’s beliefs. For example, the Bible says, “So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.” This quote explains that if a person knows the right thing to do and fails to do it or rather fails to do the right thing, then it results in sin. This compares with today's world where countless people bully others. Someone always sees it happening but never does anything about it. These examples help support the idea of taking a call to action and showing no fear in the face of defeat.

Both the Bible and *To Kill a Mockingbird* demonstrate excellent examples of the necessity to answer the call to action, regardless of the probability of failure. Failure to answer the call to action exemplifies humanity’s lack of kindness and courage in today's world. Both books demonstrate how answering the call to action shows courage in the face of defeat.

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2 James 4:17
Annotated Bibliography

Secondary Sources

Books


The book *To Kill a Mockingbird* tells of many issues such as racism, inequality, and judgement in a town where whites consider African-Americans to possess a lower standard than themselves. This source helped create my project by giving me an excellent topic to write about portraying many of the same problems. We find in today's society.


The Bible mirrored the stories in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. When Jesus ridded the temple of the merchants it was much like when Atticus ridded the town of the dog with rabies. The Bible helped me further understand my project by providing an example of the book.