To Kill a Mockingbird: A Historical Context

Although Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a work of fiction, the story is based on and set

in a historically accurate context. In order to appreciate the novel's setting and recognize its

relevance today, you must understand this time period.

A. Use the websites below to answer questions regarding the novel's controversy, the Great Depression, Jim Crow Laws, the Scottsboro Trials, and the Civi Rights Movement. We will refer to all of these topics when we discuss *To Kill a*

*Mockingbird.*

B. Type or neatly write your answers as a separate word document and bring them in on **Friday May 3.**

Controversy

ALA -- <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/banned/frequentlychallenged/challengedbydecade/2000_2009>

"Books Under Fire" -- <http://www.tolerance.org/teach/magazine/features.jsp?p=0&is=36&ar=566>

1. Where does the novel appear on the 100 Most Frequently Challenged book list?

2. Name two other titles that you were surprised to find on this list.

3. A challenge occurs when someone attempts to remove a book from school curriculums

and libraries; if the material is removed, it is considered banned. Why has To Kill a

Mockingbird been challenged?

4. Why do others disagree with this challenge?

The Great Depression

Overview -- <http://www.english.uiuc.edu/maps/depression/depression.htm>

Photographs -- <http://rs6.loc.gov/ammem/fsowcap.html>

5. Look at some photographs from the Great Depression. Describe one and explain why it

has an impact on you.

6. When did the Great Depression occur?

7. Why did the Great Depression occur?

8. Who was president when the depression started, and who was president during the New

Deal?

9. What was the New Deal?

Jim Crow Laws/Segregation

Jim Crow History/Laws -- <http://www.ferris.edu/news/jimcrow/what.htm>

Scottsboro Trials -- <http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/FTrials/scottsboro/scottsb.htm>

10. What was the purpose of Jim Crow Laws?

11. Put at least two of these laws into your own words.

12. Click on the link to the Scottsboro Trial. Read about the trial and then summarize both

the accusations and the outcome.

The Civil Rights Movement

<http://www.watson.org/~lisa/blackhistory/civilrights-55-65/>

13. When was the Civil Rights Movement?

14. This site lists seven aspects of the Civil Rights Movement. Choose one and write at least a summary of this aspect.