

To Kill a Mockingbird Journal Entries

- ✚ These “journal” responses must be typed and submitted to [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) according to the [schedule](#).
- ✚ You must have a **one journal entry for every two chapters** of the novel.
- ✚ The **Critical Analysis** portion of your writing will be graded for depth of **analysis** (connecting *what the author did* to *how she did it*) and **focus** (higher horsepower, not spinning rims) with point deductions for **non-negotiable errors**. Be sure that your responses are genuine and not [illicitly suckled from elsewhere](#).
- ✚ The **Personal Response** portion will be graded for expressive, genuine style and for the establishment of a sincere personal, connection to the quotation selected.
- ✚ For each due date, please select **two** of your responses as your **best** and submit them in **bold-face** type.
- ✚ Each entry should be approximately **¼ to ½ page in length** and should be the **only text on that page**. In other words, there should only be one journal entry on each page of the submitted document, even though that entry *isn't* meant to take up the whole page.
- ✚ Mr. Benton is looking for **quality**, not quantity. Plot vomit, word-waste, and senseless rants have no place in a journal response. Get elbow-deep in the text right away.
- ✚ Please use the following **format** for each of your entries:

Text: “Record the text you’ve selected from *To Kill a Mockingbird* in this space. Do not use the ellipsis mark before or after the quote, and I would prefer that you not use it in the middle of the quote either. If the quote is important enough to comment on, then quote it all. Use the [e-text](#) if you’d like to copy and paste quotations. Be sure to remember to put the quotes inside quotation marks, or you will suffer penalties. Following the quote, cite it with both chapter and page. See the example.” (Ch. 1, page 3)

Critical Analysis:

In this space you are to analyze Lee’s use of language and her narrative techniques that you’ve noted. Write in third person and think critically. Consider the following questions:

- ✚ Discuss the language in a specific passage. How does the **diction, detail, imagery, and syntax** contribute to the overall **tone**?
- ✚ How is the personality of a specific **character** established within a specific passage? Consider the use of dialogue, foils, and/or actions on **characterization**.
- ✚ **Setting** is often a pivotal factor in the development of **theme**; speculate on this.
- ✚ Consider a notable **literary technique** in the text. Can you identify any **irony, satire, symbolism, allusions**, etc.? (Refer to your [Literature Terms](#).) What is the impact of the technique on the work so far?
- ✚ Are there any predominant **images** that keep recurring throughout the work?
- ✚ What are the key characteristics of the speaker or narrator? How is this effective?

(Naturally you won’t answer all of these for every entry; these are just suggestions to serve as lighter fluid.)

Personal Response:

In this space, please write your personal response. Convey how the quote or events surrounding this quote make you feel (or think). Write in first person here. You may make connections to your life, to other works of literature or non-fiction that you have read, songs, movies, etc. Be genuine and be yourself while really grappling with the literature. (It is imperative that both of these things happen, otherwise this will come out as nonsense.)

