

## TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD – CASTING BREAKDOWNS/AUDITION SIDES

The play takes place in Maycomb County, Alabama in 1935, at the height of the Depression. Everybody in the play most likely grew up in that community, and most of them are country folk. Their accents would reflect that, but the universality of the story asks for a light touch with the accents. Most everyone in this play has a great amount of dignity.

### CHARACTERS:

Jean Louise Finch, the adult Scout, 30s-40s

Jem, age 12

Scout, age 9

Dill, age 10

Atticus Finch, an attorney in his late 40s - early 50s

Calpurnia, their cook, late 40s, early 50s, African American

Walter Cunningham / Judge Taylor, 50s

Mrs. Dubose, late 60s, early 70s

Mr. Radley / Bob Ewell, late 30s, early 40s

Heck Tate, Sheriff, late 30s - early 50s

Rev. Sykes, Minister, 60s or older, African American

Mr. Gilmer, prosecutor, late 30s at least, up to 60s

Mayella Ewell, 19

Tom Robinson, late 20s, African American

Boo Radley (could be played by same actor who plays Gilmer or Judge Taylor)

Caucasian actors in the cast may also be needed for lynch mob at the end of Act One.

JEAN LOUISE FINCH. Scout as a grown woman and the narrator of the play. 30s –40s.  
p.1 Opening monologue.

JEM. Aged 12. Scout's older brother.

p.4: Jem runs out of house with his football --- p.6: Jem: "I sure would."

p.8: Jem: "Shhh!..." --- p.9: Jem: "...I guess I just have to show you.."

DILL. Aged 10. Small for his age. Possibly based on Truman Capote who was a childhood friend of Harper Lee's.

p.7: Scout: "Hey --" --- p.8: Dill: "Wonder what he does in there?"

p.54: Scout: "smatter with you?" to p.55: Dill: "...he wants to stay inside."

SCOUT. Aged 9.

p.2: Jem: "Where'd you get that gum?" to p.3: Scout: "How's that, Jem?"

p.33: Cunningham: "It's late, Mr. Finch..." to p.34: Cunningham: "No harm taken.."

CALPURNIA. Late 40s - early 50s...old enough to take exception to Jem's comment that "50 is old and feeble." She's the cook in the Finch household. Ideally should be a tall actress.

p.19: Jem: "Cal! Can you come down the sidewalk..." --- p.20: Calpurnia: "...Mad dog!"

p.23: Scout: "Why is it a sin to kill a mockingbird?" --- Cal: "Now you two stay away from that dog."

HECK TATE. Sheriff, late 30s - early 50s.

p.28: Heck: "Mr. Finch?" ---p.29: "Okay, Mr. Finch, I'll do what I can."

p.68: Atticus: "Well, Heck..." --- Heck's exit bottom of p.69

WALTER CUNNINGHAM/JUDGE TAYLOR. 50s. Walter is a poor farmer.

CUNNINGHAM: p.3: Scout: "Hey, Mr. Cunningham" --- p.4: exit

JUDGE TAYLOR: p.38: Gilmer: "Are you the father of Mayella Ewell?" --- p.39: Judge: "Mr. Ewell, did you see the defendant having sexual intercourse with your daughter?"

*NB: Cut exchange between Rev Sykes and Jem on p. 39)*

BOB EWELL. Late 30s, early 40s

p.38: Gilmer: "Robert E. Ewell..." --- p.41: Judge: "The witness is excused."

*NB: Cut exchange between Rev Sykes and Jem on p. 39*

MAYELLA. Age 19

p.42: Judge: Do you swear to tell the truth..." --- p.46: Mayella: "It is."

TOM ROBINSON. Late 20s

p.48: atticus: "I call Tom Robinson." --- p.54: Tom: "I didn't go to be."

MR. GILMER. Prosecutor, late 30s at least, up to 60s

p.52: Gilmer: "You were arrested for..." --- p.54: Tom: "I didn't go to be."

BOO RADLEY. Grown up child, could be mid-30s to 50s

p.68: lineless exchange with Scout

p..70: Boo: "Miss Jean Louise..?" to Atticus: "thank you for my children."

REV SYKES. 60s, or older if possible. He could have been born into slavery so he's seen a lot.

p.58: Jem: "How long has the jury been out?" to Rev. Sykes: "Getting on towards eight"

MRS. DUBOSE. 60s or older. Ideally, she should be thin and drawn as if she's battling an illness.

p.6: Jem&Scout: "Atticus!" to p.7: atticus: ..Jean Louise...shall we?"

p.24: Scout: "Hey Mrs. Dubose..." to Mrs. Dubose's exit.