



The Theme of Father-Daughter Relationship in “to Kill a Mockingbird” by Herper Lee

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Abstract. *In Harper Lee's novel "To Kill a Mockingbird," the father-daughter relationship between Atticus Finch and his daughter Scout is a central theme. Atticus is a single father who strives to instill in Scout a strong sense of morality and empathy for others, while also encouraging her to think for herself and question societal norms. Through their interactions, Lee explores the complexities of the father-daughter relationship, including the challenges of parenting, the importance of communication and mutual respect, and the ways in which fathers can serve as positive role models for their daughters. Ultimately, Atticus and Scout's relationship represents the power of love and familial bonds to overcome even the most difficult obstacles.*

Atticus Finch, the revered lawyer of Harper Lee's well-renowned novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, is often touted as one of the most exemplary fathers in American literature. He is an upstanding citizen, a trusted member of the community, and, most importantly, a devoted father to two children, Scout and Jem. Atticus is a rare literary figure, a character who embodies the finest qualities of a patriarchal figure.

As the story progresses, it is evident that Atticus is a compassionate, intelligent, and empathetic father, who emphasizes the importance of kindness, respect, and justice. He approaches every life situation with equanimity, and he never wavers from his principles. Hence, this article seeks to explicate Atticus Finch's fatherhood, assess his attributes as a father, and how those qualities have fostered social justice in his community.

Atticus Finch as a Father

In the novel, Atticus is depicted as a father with a strong moral compass, who is committed to ensuring that his two children grow up to become conscientious members of society. Despite his busy career as a lawyer, Atticus finds the time to nurture his children by providing guidance and support when they need it. Atticus is an educator, a counselor, and a friend all in one, who leads by example, and his children benefit tremendously from his guidance.

Throughout the novel, Atticus allows his children to explore their curiosity and curiosity about the world around them. He does not dictate what they should read or think, but rather, he encourages them to form their opinions based on their observations and experiences. When Scout asks him why he is taking a case that will make him unpopular in the community, Atticus states, "The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience." This statement resonates with his children and reinforces Atticus's belief that the right thing is not always the popular thing to do. Let's look at some conversation between Atticus and his daughter to prove the above-mentioned opinion.

Atticus: "Scout, I'm proud of you. You're growing up to be a fine young lady."

Scout: "But I don't want to be a lady, Atticus. I want to be like you."

Atticus: "Well, I appreciate that, but being a lawyer isn't easy. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication."

Scout: "I know, but you make it look so easy. And you always do what's right, even when it's hard."

Atticus: "Doing what's right isn't always easy, Scout. But it's important to stand up for what you believe in, even when the whole world seems to be against you."



Scout: "Like in the Tom Robinson case?"

Atticus: "Yes, exactly like that. Sometimes the truth is hard to face, but it's always worth fighting for."

Scout: "I want to be like you, Atticus. I want to fight for what's right, just like you do."

Atticus: "You already are, Scout. You're brave and curious and you always ask questions. Just keep being yourself, and I have no doubt you'll make a difference in the world."

Moreover, Atticus believes in the equality of all people, regardless of their race, economic status, or social standing. Scout observes his father's demeanor and how he treats people of all walks of life. When Scout asks him why he is defending a Black man, he responds by saying, "I could not respect myself if I did not try." Atticus's response highlights his belief that one must always do what is right, even if it is not easy.

By example, Atticus teaches his children the importance of standing up against injustice. He understands that, as a father, he has a moral obligation to ensure his children understand what is right and wrong, and they should always stand up for the oppressed, even when everyone else is looking the other way. In the case of Tom Robinson, Atticus sees it as his moral responsibility to defend him. He recognizes that Tom would not receive a fair trial and ensures that he is accorded the justice he deserves.

Atticus is a man of his words, and he does what he says he will do. As a father, Atticus demonstrates the importance of keeping one's word. For example, he goes through with his promise to allow Jem to shoot his air rifle, even when it leads to Jem killing a bird. He does not reprimand Jem, but rather uses this moment as an opportunity to teach him a valuable life lesson- that one must be careful while handling a weapon.

Atticus's Attributes as a Father

Atticus is an empathetic and compassionate father who understands his children's needs and ensures that they feel loved, safe, and secure, regardless of what is happening in the community. He treats Scout and Jem with respect and never belittles them or talks down to them. He is always patient and compassionate, allowing his children to express themselves freely.

Atticus understands the importance of education and ensures that his children receive the best education possible. He advocates for his daughter's right to attend school, even when some community members disagree with his stance. He also encourages Scout to read as much as possible and helps her understand complex ideas by relating them to her experiences.

Atticus is a strong believer in leading by example. He imparts his values and principles to his children by demonstrating them through his actions. For example, he attends the church with the Black community, even when he is aware that it may not be socially acceptable. He demonstrates his faith in God by acting justly and helping those in need. When he defends Tom Robinson, he makes it clear that his actions are based on his belief in justice and equity.

Atticus is a protector and a provider. He ensures that his children are safe and secure, and when they feel threatened, he provides them with the necessary support to cope. For example, when Jem is attacked by Bob Ewell, Atticus ensures that Jem receives the best medical attention available. He also comforts Scout after the attack, telling her that things will get better.

Atticus is a critical thinker who does not take things at face value. He teaches his children to think for themselves and form their opinions based on their observations and experiences. He also teaches his children to be rational and not to judge people based on their appearance or what others say about them. For example, he tells Scout before her first day of school: "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view... Until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it." This statement reinforces his belief in empathy and compassion.

Atticus's contribution to Social Justice in His Community



Atticus Finch is a lawyer who is well-respected by his peers and community members. He is a man who believes in fairness, justice, and equity. When Atticus undertakes Tom Robinson's case, he understands the consequences that are associated with such a decision but still believes that it is the right thing to do. Atticus's decision manifests his commitment to promoting social justice in his community.

Atticus's defense of Tom Robinson sends a powerful message to the community. It reinforces the importance of due process, the rule of law, and the principles of justice. His defense of Tom is a stand against racism and the oppression of Black people. His stance on this issue reverberated throughout the community and inspired others to follow in his footsteps.

Atticus's defense of Tom Robinson also provides an opportunity for the community to reflect on its values and beliefs. It forces members of the community to examine their prejudices and biases and to reassess their attitudes towards Black people. Atticus's unwavering commitment to defending Tom Robinson demonstrates that anyone, regardless of their race, is entitled to equal protection under the law.

Atticus Finch is a father figure who has captured the hearts of many readers worldwide. He embodies the qualities of love, patience, respect, and empathy, and he serves as a beacon of hope for his children and the community. Atticus's advocacy for social justice in his community demonstrates that he is not only a lawyer but also a proponent of equity, fairness, and morality.

In conclusion, Atticus Finch's role as a father cannot be overstated. He is a model parent who instills his values and principles in his children by demonstrating them in his day-to-day life. Atticus's unflinching commitment to promoting social justice in his community is a testament to his character and moral fortitude. His legacy continues to inspire generations to stand up for what is right, even when it is not popular. Atticus Finch is not only a literary figure but also a role model for anyone aspiring to be a better person.

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