Atticus finch

Literature, American Literature



Abraham Lincoln once said, "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today." Atticus Finch, in many ways, lives this quote everyday by understanding what has to be done today in order to avoid future consequences of today's mistakes. Atticus is a kind-hearted, slow-tempered, wise man, who always knows the right thing to say.

In the story, one can deduce that Atticus Finch is a kind-hearted man who knows what to do in order to fix the toughest of problems.

The author remarks, "There was a brown book and some yellow tablets on the solicitor's table, Atticus's was bare" (138). This statement explains how Atticus is always prepared to do what is right, and still be humane about what point he is trying to get across. Therefore, Atticus must also set the example for his children by showing that he has a kind heart, so maybe his two children would learn to follow; however, in the story he is faced with many obstacles on the way, reducing his time spent trying to do the right thing.

Atticus definitely knows how to react under pressure. In the story the author writes, "Miss Stephanie said Atticus didn't even bat an eye, just took out his handkerchief and wiped his face and stood there and let Mr. Ewell call him names wild horses could not bring her to repeat" (185). This is a perfect example of Atticus having a long fuse. Even though Mr. Ewell cussed him until the cows came home, Atticus took it calmly and was relieved that Mr. Ewell finally got his steam out from the case. Whenever he is in trouble, he reacts calmly because he knows in the end it will all blow over.

Atticus is obviously a very wise man, who can get the job done. In the part of the story with Mrs. Dubose, Atticus 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" (93). Atticus uses many quotes like this in the book, all consisting of the wisest comments out of the whole story. In this quote Atticus is lecturing Jem after he is finished reading his book to Mrs. Dubose, and Jem realizes that Atticus was talking about him. He also said he would have made him do it eventually anyway, just to show him what real courage was, even if he would not have destroyed Mrs. Dubose's flowers. The author indirectly says that Atticus knows what he is saying.

As I have stated, Atticus is a kind-hearted, slow-tempered, and wise beyond his year's sort of man. Atticus is the ideal human being in the story. He is also the stories main protagonist, showing all the characteristics of a gentleman.