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How Does Lee Make Atticus Finch a Heroic Figure in 'To Kill a Mockingbird'?

Atticus is a lawyer and resident of the Maycomb County Lee based the character on her own father an Alabama lawyer who, like Atticus Finch, represented black defendants in a highly-publicized criminal trial. Atticus is assigned to represent the role of responsibility, he's a single parent to two kids and shows mortality and reason in low even handed and fair minded he treats his kids like adults which is unique and he doesn't need to rethink the role of himself unlike others and he has a stern but fair attitude to everything Atticus is brave without violence. He tries to teach his children that real bravery is continuing to do what is right even when you know you're going to lose. An example of this is how Atticus treats Bob Ewell. He accepts insults and doesn't retaliate, even though he is more powerful. The same thing can be said of the way that he treats Mrs Dubose when she calls him terrible racial names to his face and to his children. During a time when black people were thought to be lower than white people, Atticus defended a black man in court. He said to his children, " I'm simply defending a Negro his name's Tom Robinson," (pg. 75). It required a lot of confidence and caring for Atticus to defend Tom, and the black community knew that Tom did not stand a chance without Atticus' help. They respected him and looked to him as a hero. They showed this when they stood up for him in the courtroom. The entire group of black people who were there stood up for him. Also, the parishioners at Calpurnia's church made Jem and Scout feel welcome when they visited their church. This showed that the black people also respected Atticus' family. If Atticus were just trying his best in a difficult circumstance, then he would not be as respected as he was by the black community. The

black people greatly acknowledged the qualities that Atticus displayed by defending Tom and looked to him as a hero because of these qualities. Throughout the novel, Atticus proved his numerous abilities and intelligences. He had achieved the nickname of "One-Shot Finch" because he was always the deadeast shot in Maycomb. He saved the town from a rabid dog by shooting it with one shot. Jem and Scout were amazed when their neighbour, Miss Maudie, told them, "The very idea, didn't you know his nickname was Old One Shot when he was a boy," (pg. 98). His children thought Atticus could not do anything until Miss Maudie explained to them that he was also the best checker player in Maycomb and that he knew how to play a Jew's harp. Atticus also explained many things and taught many lessons to his children as they traveled the journey of growing up. It is proven that Scout listened to her father's advice when she said, "As Atticus advised me to, I tried to climb into Jem's skin and walk around in it," (pg. 57). She took his advice because she knew it would work. She knew that Atticus was always right. Again, if Atticus were simply trying his best in a hard situation, then he would have had a harder time explaining life's problems to his children. Jem and Scout looked up to Atticus, and in their eyes, he was a true hero. Atticus' strongest quality was his quality of caring. Almost every person in Maycomb knew of it, even if they did not admit it. For instance, despite her ugly face and hateful attitude, Atticus treated Mrs. Dubose like any ordinary person. He would even tell her, Mrs. Dubose had an ugly attitude towards the Finch family, but Atticus would simply ignore it and treat her kindly. Also, even though Calpurnia was a caregiver to the Finches, Atticus treated her like part of the family. Even when Aunt Alexandra wanted

her to leave, Atticus said, " Alexandra, Calpurnia's not leaving this house until she wants to. She's a faithful member of this family and you'll simply have to accept things the way they are," (pg. 137). Finally, Atticus wanted his children to understand that Arthur Radley was a human being and that they should stop tormenting him. He said to them, " I'm going to tell you something and tell you one time: stop tormenting that man," (pg. 49).

Atticus respected Arthur despite the fact that he stayed inside his house all the time. Despite all of the stories that were going around town about Arthur, Atticus wished that everybody would just leave the man alone. Atticus cared for everyone, from the sick, to the coloured, to the unseen. With everything that Atticus had to take care of, he was made a true hero by caring for everybody, even when he did not have to. It is evident that Atticus is a heroic character in *To Kill A Mockingbird*. He cared for and defended a black man in court, he achieved nicknames for his talents, and he loved and treated everybody equally. His children were very proud of him. If Atticus Finch was simply a good man trying his best in difficult situations, then he would not have put his reputation on the line to try and save a black man's life, he would not have taught numerous lessons to his children, and he would not have displayed his caring to almost every person he met. He was known for his many achievements and qualities. Therefore, Atticus Finch was a heroic character in this novel, not just a good man doing his best in difficult situations. I think Lee makes Atticus a heroic figure because he always put other people's interests and needs before his own, and in that way he could be described as of generous nature. He may not be physically strong but he doesn't need to be because he is emotionally strong, because he puts him

with all the hate and abuse him and his children just because he is doing the right thing by defending a black man in court. It is very heroic because none of the white community agrees with Atticus, but he believes in Tom Robinson and fights for him. Atticus is a very admirable character because he is very strong minded and does an amazing job at parenting, even though Scout has realised it yet, but father is an incredible man that is very well respected.