

To kill a mockingbird: boo radley

[Literature](#), [American Literature](#)



In the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, a mockingbird is used as a symbol to show the characteristics of Boo Radley. A mockingbird is a small white and gray bird usually found in North America. According to Ms. Maudie Atkinson, a good friend of the narrator Scout Finch and her brother Jem, it is considered a sin to kill a mockingbird because 'They do not nest in people's corn cribs or eat people's gardens. They only sing their hearts out' (Lee 74-75).

In the novel *Boo Radley*, whose actual name is Arthur Radley, was locked up in his house after committing immoral crimes in his youth(6). Although, Scout would believe otherwise after Boo, unbeknownst to her, wrapped a blanket around her during Ms. Maudie's house fire (58-59). A mockingbird is a good symbol for Boo Radley.

Both mockingbirds and Boo Radley are outcasts. A mockingbird is an outcast because people automatically assume that they are like all of the other birds.

People think that the bird is disruptive and will eat a garden (Lee 74-75). Boo Radley is also an outcast because people are scared of him. The neighborhood gossip, Ms. Stephanie Crawford, said that one day while cutting the *Maycomb Tribune* for a scrapbook he was making, Boo stabbed his father in the leg as he was walking past (7). Not only are they outcasts, but the mockingbird and Boo Radley bring happiness to others. A mockingbird brings happiness to people by singing its song all day long. Boo Radley makes two people in particular happy which is Jem and Scout. Boo makes them happy by leaving them presents which included double mint gum and two Indian-head pennies(Lee 26-27).

Boo and the mockingbird not only bring happiness to others, but they are also selfless. A mockingbird will fly at someones face if the person gets too close to the birds' babies to try to scare the person away. No matter what it takes the bird will do everything in its power to save its young. Boo Radley is also selfless. because when Bob Ewell attacked Jem and Scout, Boo fought Bob off of the kids which led to Bob falling on to his knife that instantly killed him. After Bob died, even though Jem was heavy Boo carried him home to make sure that Jem was safe (Lee 222-223).

One symbol for a mockingbird is Boo Radley because like the bird he is an outcast, he brings happiness to others, and he is selfless. Mockingbirds and Boo Radley are both outcasts. They are not only outcasts, but the mockingbird and Boo Radley bring happiness to others. Not only do the mockingbird and Boo bring hapiness to others, but they are also selfless.