

How valid is the assertion that literature is a voice for the oppressed?

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



" The main one is. If I didn't [defend Tom Robinson in court] I couldn't hold my head up in town" - Atticus Finch That's what answered to the question what were the reasons for him to defend Tom Robinson in court. Tom Robinson is in this story the most obvious oppressed. But instead of talking about why he is oppressed, I'd like to show you in what way he is oppressed, by e. g. Bob Ewell. 1. [...] " I seen that black nigger yonder ruttin' on my Mayella!" [...] - Bob Ewell Mister Ewell is barely literate, as we all know, because he could barely write his OWN name properly. However when it comes to verbal communication he is actually quite talented. Even though I think his language-use is way to aggressive and offensive. He never used Tom's name, not even once. He never used the pronoun 'he', when speaking about Tom. So what he does is he dehumanises him and compares his to a beast (: " I seen that black nigger yonder ruttin' on my Mayella!"). He emphasises Tom's race (: " Black nigger"). What he does he won't let anyone is that court forget that Tom is something not-human, because of his race. So within a mere ten words he offends Tom multiple times and make the crowd in court wild. 2. [...] To Maycomb, Tom's death was typical. Typical of a nigger to cut and run. Typical of a nigger's mentality to have no plan, no thought for the future, just run blind first chance he saw. Funny thing, Atticus Finch might've got him off scot free, but wait-? Hell no. You know how they are. Easy come, easy go. Just shows you, that Robinson boy was legally married, they say he kept himself clean, went to church and all that, but when it comes down to the line the veneer's mighty thin. Nigger always comes out in 'em. [...] I must say a beautiful piece of writing by Harper Lee, but that does not take away that something very serious has been

mentioned here. What she tells us is that the work of Atticus did not have much effect. After the trial, in which many got on Tom's hand and were against his penalty, everything went (almost) back to normal. People went on with their lives and not daily wondering about how unsound of mind they actually are! In a passive way people actually let racism go on and they do not try to stop it. For the inhabitants of Maycomb there, probably, has to be another incident or trial involving a negro-person.