

Emmett till

People



Makayla Richards Mrs. Bonham Literature 101 5 March 2013 Emmett Till
Research Paper Three Major Points: Lynching, Mississippi Trial, 1955 Thesis
Statement: The murder of Emmitt Till was a murder that changed America
The Emmett Till Case, 1955 Chilling Circumstances The story surrounding the
death of Emmett Till provides chilling insight into theracismthat dominated
the South in the 1950s. Emmett was a fourteen-year-old Chicago native
visiting his relatives in Mississippi.

While out with his cousins and friends on the night of August 24, 1955 he
allegedly whistled at a white woman in the grocery store owned by her
husband. Stories vary as to what Till actually said or did. According to the
woman Till grabbed her and made rude remarks. Some witnesses claimed
that he only whistled at her. Still others assured that he made no problems
at all, that he whistled continuously to control a speech defect. A Brutal
Murder Roy Bryant considered his wife's life ruined by the incident. Several
nights after the episode, Bryant, his half brother J. W.

Milam, and possibly others kidnapped Emmett from his relatives' house in
the middle of the night. The two men beat him severely and, apparently saw
that he had a picture of a white woman in his wallet, they shot Emmett and
threw him in a nearby river. Several days later the body was found, and
Bryant and Milam were charged with murder. A Surprise Verdict Mississippi
politicians and newspapers condemned the murderers and promised justice.
However, Mississippians became more defensive as the weeks passed. The
Press attacked them with harsh judgment of racialviolencein the South.

The highly publicized trial of the two men was charged with racial tension.
African-American politicians and reporters from the North were treated
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horribly and were segregated in the courtroom. The prosecution was poorly prepared, and the substance of the defense was the shocking claim that Till was not actually dead. The Killers Tell the Truth The truth of what happened that night became public knowledge several months after the trial. William Bradford Huie, an Alabama journalist in Mississippi to report on the aftermath of the case, offered Bryant and Milam money to tell their story.

Since the two could no longer be prosecuted for a crime of which they had already been accused of, they gladly told for a fee of how they had beaten and killed young Emmett Till. Huie reported what the killers told him in the January 24, 1956 issue of Look magazine. Now publicly exposed as murderers, Bryant and Milam were shunned by the community, and both moved elsewhere within a year. Emmett Till in death became a saint for the civil rights movement, a symbol of the racial hatred African-Americans who had yet to overcome the situation.

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