

# HISTORICAL FICTION

“History shows us a window into our past.  
Historical Fiction can take us by the hand and  
lead us into that world.”

Judith Geary



# **Historical Fiction In-Class Writing Assignment**

**20 POINTS**

**You don't need your book, but you may use it if desired.**

**What counts?**

**GOOD WRITING, including:**

**\*\* CONTENT \*\***

**\*\* STYLE \*\***

**\*\* CONVENTIONS \*\***

**Say something thoughtful...and say it well.**

**EXAMPLE:**

**Complete this following sentence starter. You may use more than one sentence.**

**This book made me FEEL that \_\_\_\_\_**

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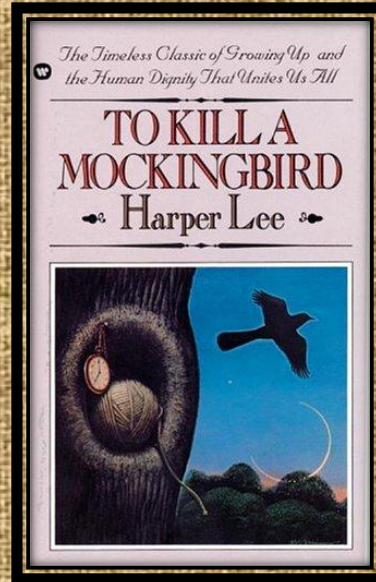
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Imagine *To Kill a Mockingbird* as the Historical Fiction book



**POOR response:**

**This book made me FEEL that the people in Maycomb were racist. They convicted a black man of a crime simply because of the color of his skin.**

**BETTER response:**

**This book made me FEEL that Tom received an unfair trial in front of a racist jury. How could they convict him of the crime he was accused of when his lawyer, Atticus, proved that he was innocent? They did so just because he was black.**

**BEST response:**

**This book made me FEEL that- disgusted by the racism of the citizens of Maycomb County, Alabama. Despite Atticus Finch's superb final argument proving Tom Robinson innocent beyond doubt of raping a white woman, the all male, all white jury still convicted him of the crime based not on evidence, but on the black color of Tom's skin. Would a more diverse jury have prevented this injustice? Regardless, it is tragic that this mentality was a reality in our country in the 1930's.**

Let's look at this example a little more closely to see why it's preferable:

**BEST response:**

**This book made me FEEL ~~that~~ disgusted by the racism of the citizens of Maycomb County, Alabama. Despite Atticus Finch's superb final argument proving Tom Robinson innocent beyond doubt of raping a white woman, the all male, all white jury still convicted him of the crime based not on evidence, but on the black color of Tom's skin. Would a more diverse jury have prevented this injustice? Regardless, it is tragic that this mentality was a reality in our country in the 1930's.**

Notice that this answer reflects a command of content, style, and conventions.

**CONTENT:** a thoughtful idea that includes specifics from the story for support

**STYLE:** strong wording; reflective question; sentence variety

**CONVENTIONS:** correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation

**Here's another example:**

**This book made me REALIZE that** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**QUALITY response:**

**This book made me REALIZE that Atticus is a sterling example of a great parent and possesses traits that I wish to have. He shows his children, Jem and Scout, how to treat others with compassion, from Tom Robinson, a black man, to Walter Cunningham, a poor friend, to Boo Radley, a reclusive neighbor. His love for his children is also always apparent, even to the last line of the story which reads, "He would be there all night, and he would be there when Jem waked up in the morning" (Lee 252).**

**CONTENT: thoughtful, specific ideas sparked from reading the text**

**STYLE: personal connection; strong vocabulary; quote**

**CONVENTIONS: correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation**



**Relax...Think...Write...**

**You will do well!**

