



THESIS

Prompt:

To Kill a Mockingbird is told from the point of view of Scout—sometimes an “older” Scout who is looking back on events and can give detail or understanding upon a certain situation. Usually, however, it is a “young” Scout, who is the age she is at the time of the story. In a carefully reasoned essay, determine if Scout is a reliable narrator for a novel featuring adult themes. Use evidence from the text and your reading experience of *To Kill a Mockingbird* to develop your position.

Understanding the Prompt:

Topic: the effectiveness of telling a sophisticated story from the first-person point of view of a child

Task: defend or challenge the use of six-year-old Scout as the narrator of *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Evidence: 1. text
2. personal reading experience of *TKAM*

Brainstorming Ideas:

ADVANTAGES:

- * full details of events
- * curiosity of child
- * kept me engaged
- * gave me bigger view

DISADVANTAGES:

- * child can be confused
- * not fully understand
- * feel she missed things

Writing the Thesis Statement:

Text: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

Claim: there is no character better than young Scout to be the storyteller

Evidence: * Lee's high quality narration of serious plot
* reader able to benefit from Scout's innocence

* Note that the evidence answers "why" to the claim and incorporates both the text and the reader's personal reading experience.

Thesis Statement **SAMPLE 1:**

In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, author Harper Lee uses Scout's tender voice to tell a powerful story that resonates with readers in a remarkable way.

- * Note the use of LITERARY PRESENT TENSE VERBS:
uses, to tell, resonates

Thesis Statement **SAMPLE 2:**

Scout's youth and innocence enhance the depiction of the tragic events in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and help the reader to understand everything that happens in the complex story.

* **LITERARY PRESENT TENSE VERBS:**
enhance, help, to understand

Thesis Statement **SAMPLE 3**: (two sentences)

Harper Lee reveals racism and injustice through a fresh pair of eyes in the world in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Scout's naïve narration, juxtaposed with other prejudiced characters, intensifies the reading process.

* **LITERARY PRESENT TENSE VERBS:**
reveals, intensifies

YOU CAN

DO IT