

SYMBOLISM

1. Certain objects take on symbolic value in the *TKM*. That is, an object is used by the author as apart of the setting or narrative, yet that object points to or represents something outside itself. Of course, a central symbol is the mockingbird, described by Miss Maudie as a creature that should never be killed because it is harmless and even provides song for the enjoyment of others. Both Boo Radley and Tom Robinson are basically blameless individuals who are at the mercy of society, yet society is cruel to Boo, and ultimately Tom is murdered. The symbol of the mockingbird also points to Scout, both as an innocent child and as the grown-up narrator, who "sings a song" in telling the story. Can you think of ways in which the following function as symbols in *TKM* ?

the mad
dog

the
treehouse

Camellias

the gun

the
cemented

hole in
the tree

columns
on
buildings

Atticus'
pocket
watch

2. Can you assign symbolic meaning to any of these objects in terms of the present day? How do these present day symbolic meanings differ from the meanings that those symbols held in the novel?