Bullying Is Not The Answer

People may encounter harassment in their lifetime, but does one ever stop and **think why does one bully?** The novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by the author Harper Lee, takes place in Maycomb, Alabama in the 1930s. At that time, racial discrimination was prevalent throughout the country to the African-American people. The father of the protagonist, Atticus Finch, is defending Tom Robinson, a black man accused of a crime he did not commit and thus he gets harassed by doing so. *The Help* is a movie based on a book, is directed by Tate Taylor. This movie is based in the 1950’s in Jackson, Mississippi. Miss Skeeter, the protagonist, is writing a book about the stories of the African-American maids and their experiences from work, so that other people can understand the hardship that these maids go through. **Similarly, in the movie *The Help* and in the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, both tell a story of bullying and racism to the African-Americans from their respective communities. In *The Help* Miss Hilly was a bully because she was racist and she felt like she was more superior then everyone else; however, in *Mockingbird* Robert Ewell was a bully for the attention and because he arrogant attitude to the African-Americans. Regardless of their differences, they both show how certain individuals partake in bullying.**

In *The Help,* the main antagonist Miss Hilly is a bully because she is ignorant to the African-Americans and because she feels more superior. Her main goal was to pass the “Home Help Sanitation Initiative”. This is a bill that states that the black maids should have a separate bathroom. Miss Hilly believes that the black maids, “carry different diseases than we do” (Taylor, *The Help*). That is ironic and ignorant of her because the black maids make the food, take care of their children, clean, and more. She believes if they carry diseases only through the toilet seats? It shows how ignorant the tyrant of a woman can be. There are no facts to back up her accusations. She just thinks that she is right all the time. Being the president of the Jackson Junior League gives her authority and superiority too. She starts a campaign called the “Poor Starving Children of Africa” to show she is not a racist. The only reason why she does it is to masquerade the fact that she is, in fact, a racist. When Miss Hilly explains to Skeeter, “Believe it or not, there are real racists in this town” (Taylor, *The Help*) and this just proves how hypocritical she can be.

In *Mockingbird* Robert or “Bob” Ewell is a bully for the attention and is thus arrogant toward the African-Americans. During the trial, it is obvious that he was clueless; furthermore, one can tell that he is blatantly lying as Atticus is questioning him. He is described as” a little bantam cock of a man rose and strutted to the stand” (Lee, Chapter 17) and from this one can tell that this man thinks he is tough and cool. Also, what one can take from that is that he is cocky or does not take matters seriously. He likes the attention he is getting from the trial. Since Bob is “white trash”, he does not get as much of a reputation, for example comparing him to Atticus. Bob is also shown to be a racist man and an intimidating one at that. The real reason one can see that he is racist is because he does not want to be perceived as or have anything being associated with the “Colour Folks” that do not live far from him, whether it is his social status of financial status. He did things like using derogatory slang, using threats and even went as far as trying into trying to kill people. One victim of his harassment is Helen Robinson, Tom Robinson’s wife. Bob Ewell; “kept the same distance behind her until she reached Mr. Link Deas's house. All the way to the house, Helen said, she heard a soft voice behind her, crooning foul words” (Lee, Chapter 27). Bob is shown to be scary and racist, so Helen tries her hardest not to interact with him. Robert Ewell is a bully because he is arrogant to the African-Americans and for the attention he get for doing so.

In summery, *Mockingbird* and in *The Help,* display bullying and racism in their two different communities. Miss Hill was a bully because she was ignorant and she thinks she is greater than everyone else. Bob was a bully because he wanted attention and because of his arrogant attitude. Miss Hilly attempted to pass the “Home Help Sanitation Initiative” and she uses the Jackson Junior League to get what she wants and to hid the fact that she is a racist. Bob Ewell was cocky and enjoyed the attention that was given to him from Maycomb and from the trial. Bob was also derogatory to the “Coloured Folks”. One may say that Bob Ewell is bullying and harassment was more extreme because he ended up getting a man killed, however, they both demonstrate how different individuals can pester and bully others.