

The Author and the Book

Nelle Harper Lee, the author of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, had many childhood experiences which are similar to those of her narrator, Scout Finch.

Harper Lee's Childhood

Grew up in 1930s -
rural southern Alabama
town

Father - Amasa Lee -
attorney who served in
state legislature in
Alabama

Older brother and
young neighbor (Truman
Capote) are playmates

Harper Lee - an avid
reader

Six years old when
Scottsboro trials were
meticulously covered
in state and local
newspapers

Scout Finch's Childhood

Grew up in 1930s -
rural southern
Alabama town

Father - Atticus
Finch - attorney who
served in state
legislature in
Alabama

Older brother and
young neighbor (Dill)
are playmates

Scout reads before
she enters school;
reads *Mobile Register*
newspaper in first
grade

Six years old when
the trial of Tom
Robinson takes place

THE SETTING OF T.K.A.M.

- novel set in the fictitious town of Maycomb, Alabama
- takes place in the 1930's during The Great Depression.
- this was a time of massive poverty and hunger
- in 1931, more than 20,000 Americans committed suicide.
- by 1932, one quarter of the U.S.A.'s labour force was out of work.
- hourly wages dropped by 30%

