To Kill A Mockingbird (TKAM) Name

Introduction & Historical Background Block

1. The author of *To Kill a Mockingbird* is .
2. What makes a book, poem, movie, sporting event, etc. a CLASSIC?

1. What do you already know about the Great Depression?

1. The novel takes place during the Great Depression, which began when the   
    crashed in and lasted until the U.S. entered in .
2. During the Great Depression, roughly of Americans were unemployed. The average income was only , while the average income for farmers was only .
3. During this time, races in the South were publically segregated by the laws. Three examples of this segregation included:

1. The culture at the time discouraged any between blacks and whites of opposite sexes. In fact, between people of different races was .
2. The main characters in *To Kill a Mockingbird* are:
   1. , the six-year old narrator of the story.
   2. , her ten-year old brother.
   3. , Jem and Scout’s summertime friend.
   4. , Jem and Scout’s father. The children (and reader) learn many important life lessons from him.
3. Part 1 of the novel focuses on Scout, Jem, and Dill’s attempts to learn more about their mysterious neighbor and local legend, .
4. Based on the description of Boo that Jem gives in the novel (slide 36), what image do the children have of Boo?
5. What “monsters” were you afraid of when you were a kid?

1. Part 2 of the novel focuses on the trial in which , a black man, is accused of raping , a white woman. Lee based this trial on the historical 1931 trial in which nine African American men, dubbed the “ ”
2. For how long were the Scottsboro trials in court?
3. Why do you think Harper Lee chose to include a similar trial in *TKAM*?

1. Both the trial and Boo Radley help Jem and Scout realize that it is wrong to   
    people. This is one of the novel’s major themes.
2. *TKAM*,which was published in , was greatly influenced by racial tension in the U.S. These important historical events included:
   1. One of the most influential Supreme Court cases, vs. , took place in 1954 and made .
   2. In 1955, was arrested for . This led to the Montgomery City . Teenager   
       also chose not to give up her bus seat in 1955.
   3. In 1956, was admitted to the University of Alabama, but was forced to flee after .
   4. In 1957, federal troops were sent to , to enforce court-ordered of schools.
3. Briefly describe two of the racially-charged events that took place after the publication of *TKAM*:
4. The most important symbol in the novel is the , which represents .