

Spencer Nelson

Wayne Storer

English

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What is right and what is wrong?

What is the best way to decide what is right and what is wrong? To answer this question you must reach deep within yourself and follow your internal instincts, your own morals if you will. According to Harper Lee the best way to decide what is right and wrong is to follow your own morals no matter what cost. In "To Kill a Mockingbird" there are many examples of people doing what they know is right at any cost. Examples of this are; Atticus taking the Robinson case even though he knows it will give him a bad image in the eyes of the county, Scout not getting into fights even though it is her first instinct to punch people and Jem when he reads to Mrs. Dubose although he hates her to the core.

In the novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" Scouts' father Atticus takes a case defending a black man named Tom Robinson. To do what Atticus did was considered taboo by the rest of Maycomb County. Maycomb County is a place where racial background is a huge factor in the way one person thinks about another, a place where the respect the white community has for the black community is next to none. "Nigger-lover" Chapter 9, pg. 87 this was said to Atticus' child scout by Cecil Jacobs. This quote shows that even through all of the heartache caused by his community and even his own

family Atticus is still brave enough to go against the “tide” and follow his morals by defending Tom Robinson.

Early in the book Scout has trouble with getting into fights, she just can't help herself. Fighting was the only alternative for her when anyone insulted her or her family. “Atticus had promised me he would wear me out if he ever heard of me fighting anymore...” Chapter 9, pg.84. This quote shows how Scout's fighting had affected Atticus. Although at first Scout did not fight because her daddy said so, but eventually she had come to terms and realized that fighting was not the only way to resolve issues. Scout decided on her own to not get into fights anymore because she knew it was the right thing to do, which shows that she had a solid foundation of morals.

Jem had a similar encounter with Ms. Dubose as Scout had with fighting. Jem hated Ms. Dubose because she had called him and his father Atticus terrible names such as “nigger lover”. When Jem could not take any more of her insults he took Scout's baton and ravaged Ms. Dubose's flowers with it. Later Ms. Dubose found out and demanded him to come to her house after school every day and read to her. Atticus made him do this but Jem had also made the decision himself because he knew it was right.

Conclusion

According to Lee the best way to decide what is right and wrong is to follow your own morals no matter what cost. To do this you must feel passionately for the task at hand, you must reach within yourself and make a decision based on what truly right, not just to everyone else but solely to yourself.