

**Exposition**

The setting is Maycomb, Alabama, in the 1930s. The narrator, Scout Finch, introduces herself, her older brother Jem, and their father, the lawyer Atticus Finch.

**Rising Action**

Atticus is assigned to defend Tom Robinson, a black man accused of raping a white woman. The trial becomes a focal point for the town's racial tensions and prejudices.

**Climbing Action**

Scout and Jem are attacked by Bob Ewell, the father of the woman who accused Tom Robinson. Boo Radley, a reclusive neighbor whom the children have been fascinated by, saves them and kills Ewell in the process.

**Climax**

Atticus loses the trial and Tom is found guilty, despite his clear innocence. The children are forced to confront the harsh reality of racism and injustice.

**Falling Action**

Scout finally meets and befriends Boo Radley, and comes to see him as a kind and gentle person, rather than the "malevolent phantom" the town has made him out to be.

**Resolution**

The book ends with Scout's newfound understanding of the complexities of human nature and the importance of compassion and empathy, as well as her hope for a better future for Maycomb and the world at large.

**Book plot diagram**

To Kill a Mockingbird

*by Harper Lee*