

Justice in Maycomb

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Is it easier to earn justice without the help of the law? Maycomb is a town where justice and the law are important. Prejudice beliefs may prevent justice being rightfully earned in court and law. When this happens, townspeople can be accused guilty, even if they did not harm anyone, and they are telling the truth causing justice to be achieved to people who do not deserve it. In Maycomb, justice is achieved outside of the law more than it is within the law because of prejudice beliefs, for example, Scout changes Mr. Cunningham's mind at the jail, Judge Taylor gives Atticus the case, and Heck Tate and Atticus do not turn Boo in.

Mr. Cunningham came to the jail but after talking to Scout he changes his mind about coming and leaves Tom and Atticus alone. Mr. Cunningham is usually a very nice person and so is his family. Mr. Cunningham came to the jail because the mob was going to hurt Tom. When Scout is talking to him in front of the jail, she starts to talk about his son and remind him of what he has at home. Scout says, "He's a good good boy, I added, a real nice boy. We brought him home for dinner one time" (Lee 174). Scout makes Mr. Cunningham realize that he has a family at home, and he would not want them to know about this bad thing he was going to do. It would be an embarrassment and change how the town views him and his family. In his decision of going home, justice is earned because he tells the gang what the right thing to do is and does not want something like this to get in the way of his daily life. When one person chooses to do the right thing, they can help others be this way too.

Judge Taylor decides to give Atticus the case because he can help Tom Robinson earn justice. Atticus is one of the best lawyers, but this case is different from the rest because he was asked to defend a black man. Tom is accused of a crime he does not commit and it would be his word against a white man. By Atticus getting the case, Tom has a better chance of winning. Atticus told Jack, "I really can't tell at this stage, Jack. You know, I'd hoped to get through life without a case of this kind, but Jon Taylor pointed at me and said, "You're it"" (Lee101). Judge Taylor knows that Atticus is the better lawyer and if he did the case, Tom would not have a good chance against a white man. Inside, Judge Taylor half wants Tom to win. This is his way of helping without saying anything to the community. This action is a justice because he makes it a fair trial by giving it to Tom.

Boo protects Scout and Jem from harm which displays that justice can be earned outside of the law. Boo seems like a bad person because of all of the rumors about him. This shows Atticus, Heck Tate, Jem, and Scout that he is good. "Before he went inside the house, he stopped in front of Boo Radley. "'Thank you for my children, Arthur,' he said" (Lee 317). Jem and Scout know that Boo is not like the rumors because he put the blanket around Scout, and he left them toys in the tree. Everyone else in Maycomb's community believes the rumors that are about him. Atticus and Heck Tate can recognize that Boo is not a danger to society because he saves Jem and Scout from Bob Ewell. This is a justice because Boo now has a new reputation and does not have to be the bad person anymore. Atticus and Heck Tate prevail justice by letting Boo be a hero and not turning him in with the truth still being told.

Justice is earned more often outside the law than inside because of Scout changing Mr. Cunningham's mind, the case given to Atticus, and Boo not being turned in. These actions show

justice because the people who did it acted the correct and kind way. Not everyone has to know about the bad side of the story, like Boo's story. He is a hero but if all of it was told he could be in trouble. By just telling what Heck Tate said, he still earns justice and the truth is told. Today, people in court have to forget about their own opinions. It is easier to earn justice in court then the time of Maycomb. This is because now, there is no more segregation and people and there is a bigger punishment for lying in court than there was in maycomb.