**THEME- Loneliness and Isolation**

Throughout the novel we meet a number of characters who are isolated from the close-knit white community of Maycomb and are lonely. We sympathise with them, and each of them find something to help them cope with their loneliness.

Character How they cope with loneliness

Boo Radley Turned into a recluse by his cruel father, he has become the subject of local legend. He watches Maycomb life from his window, especially the Finch children.

Dill Rejected by his parents, he is passed around from relation to relation. Playing with Jem and Scout gives him a sense of being part of a family.

Mayella Ewell Left to bring up her siblings virtually unaided, Mayella has no friends of her own age and no one to love her. She grows pretty flowers to add colour to her life, helped by Tom. Perhaps after her father's death she will grow stronger.

Tom Robinson He is imprisoned when Mayella accused him of rape. The black community supports Tom and his family, and he is helped too by Atticus and his children.

All these people are lonely either because of prejudice against them; or because they are not loved enough, which is perhaps another way of saying the same thing.

**THEME- Courage**

There are many examples in the novel of people who show courage.

* Jem goes back to the Radley property to collect his trousers.
* Atticus shoots a mad dog in one shot.
* Mrs Dubose battles against morphine addiction.
* Dill escapes from his new stepfather to return to Maycomb.
* Atticus represents Tom Robinson, knowing the prejudice in the town.
* Tom tries to escape from prison.
* Boo saves the children from Mr Ewell.

You can probably think of several other characters who show courage. Ask yourself, what are these brave people standing up against? What is it that they are overcoming?

In most cases the courage that people demonstrate consists in standing up against prejudice, or in overcoming their own loneliness and fear. When Mr Cunningham disperses the lynch mob at the jail - and when another Cunningham jury member holds out against the others because he believes Tom Robinson is innocent - these actions take real courage.

Only courage like this, the novel is suggesting, empowers a person to achieve understanding.