**Symbols**

*Symbols are objects, characters, figures, and colours used to represent abstract ideas or concepts.*

“Mockingbirds don’t do one thing but . . . sing their hearts out for us. That’s why it’s a sin to kill a mockingbird.”- Miss Maudie

The title of ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ has very little literal connection to the plot, but it carries a great deal of symbolic weight in the book. In this story of innocents destroyed by evil, the “mockingbird” comes to represent the idea of innocence. Thus, to kill a mockingbird is to destroy innocence.

Throughout the book, a number of characters can be identified as mockingbirds—innocents who have been injured or destroyed or affected in some way through contact with evil, despite their innocence.

For each of the following characters, explain how they are presented as ‘mockingbirds’. Use quotes.

* Tom Robinson
* Dill
* Boo Radley
* Jem