**THEME- Understanding**

Examples of Gaining Understanding

Character Example of gaining understanding

Scout She grows up a lot during the novel. She learns nothing from her teacher, Miss Caroline, but she learns much from Atticus, Calpurnia, Miss Maudie and the experiences of the three years. By the end of the novel, she has learned to accept people for what they are and not to be judgemental.

Jem He matures fast and arguably learns even more than Scout. As he matures physically - he is proud of the hair on his chest - he grows away from Scout and gains adult values. He is the most affected by the result of the trial and realises that Maycomb is in a cocoon of prejudice.

Mr Cunningham He learns from Scout's innocent conversation outside the jail and disperses the mob. One of his family on the jury goes on to argue that Tom should be acquitted.

The whole town of Maycomb It begins to learn as a result of the trial. Miss Maudie describes this change as "a baby-step towards fair-mindedness".

Atticus is the example to everyone. He knows that the only way to break down prejudice and misunderstanding is to see things from another's viewpoint - "to climb into his skin and walk around in it". This is the main message of the novel.