Activity 1. Trial Plaintiffs Compared

Name: __________________________________________           Date: _________________
Teacher: ________________________________________           Class: _________________

Identify words and phrases that describe each plaintiff in each case and enter them in the space provided.

Scottsboro Trial (1931) observation:  
Ms. Hollace Ransdall’s report

Ruby Bates
Victoria Price

To Kill a Mockingbird observation:
Tom Robinson trial chapters 17 – 18

Description of each plaintiff

Mayella Ewell

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Identify words and phrases that describe the plaintiff’s families in each case and enter them in the space provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scottsboro Trial (1931) observation:</th>
<th>To Kill a Mockingbird observation:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Hollace Ransdall’s report</td>
<td>Tom Robinson trial chapters 17 – 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description of each plaintiff’s family</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mayella Ewell’s family</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruby Bates’ family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victoria Price’s family</td>
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</table>
Engage in a discussion comparing the plaintiffs and their families. Answer the following discussion questions using the words and phrases gathered as evidence to support your responses:

- What similarities in personality are evident in the plaintiffs in both the fiction and the historical trials as described in these observations?

- Atticus takes up valuable court time and narrative space, “quietly building up before the jury a picture of the Ewell’s home life.” Why would it be important for an attorney to identify the kind of home and family a plaintiff came from?

- What are the similarities in family background and life experience of the plaintiffs? Are there any differences?

- How might a reader of the Ransdall report be influenced by reading it? How do Scout’s descriptions affect the reader’s understanding of Tom Robinson’s case in *To Kill a Mockingbird*?