

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:

***To Kill a Mockingbird* observation:**

Ms. Hollace Ransdall's report

Tom Robinson trial chapters 17 – 18

Description of each plaintiff

Ruby Bates	Mayella Ewell
Victoria Price	

To Kill a Mockingbird and the Scottsboro Boys

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

Scottsboro Trial (1931) observation:

***To Kill a Mockingbird* observation:**

Ms. Hollace Ransdall's report

Tom Robinson trial chapters 17 – 18

Description of each plaintiff's family

Ruby Bates' family	Mayella Ewell's family
Victoria Price's family	

To Kill a Mockingbird and the Scottsboro Boys

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*?**