APPENDIX

SUMMARY OF *TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD*

During Great Depression, in the town of Maycomb, Alabama, a kid, Scout Finch aged 6, lives with her older brother Jem and widowed father, Atticus, a lawyer who works whole day long to keep the family out of poverty. When Atticus is out, kids depend on a black cook, Calpurnia.

One year a boy namely Dill visits Finches’ neighbor in summer. All three kids befriend. Out of their wild imagination, they dare to see a close by mysterious house, owned by Nathan Radley. Nathan’s brother, Arthur Radley, has a mysterious and solitary nature. One day Jem dares to touch the Radley house. Scout sees someone looked at them from behind a curtain. The summer finishes and Dill goes back. Scout starts school. On the first day, her teacher criticizes her for already knowing how to read. Scout and Jem find gifts in the Radley tree. Dill returns in the summer and three children reunite. This time children act more daringly and creep into the Radley house. Nathan sees the kids and thinks they’re thieves. They rush but Jem’s pants get stuck in the Radley fence. He leaves them behind. Jem goes back to get his pants later that night and finds his pants mended and folded. Scout and Jem carry on finding gifts in knothole until Nathan fills it with cement.

After some months, the Finch’s neighbor Miss Maudie Atkinson’s house catches fire. While Scout and Finch gaze the house burn, someone puts a blanket around her shoulders. Jem realizes that Boo Radley must have done it. The same
year, Atticus is appointed to defend a black man, Tom Robinson, alleged of raping Mayella, a poor white man’s daughter.

It provokes racial tension in Maycomb. Scout and Jem also become a victim of it by schoolmates and others. On the contrary, when Calpurnia takes the children to attend her black church, they are warmly welcomed. Before the trial begins, Atticus’ sister Alexandra comes to take care of children. Dill also returns after fleeing away from his mother and her new husband. Alexandra reserves more conventional social viewpoint than Atticus’s. She treats Calpurnia as a servant and urges Scout to behave in girlish manner.

A day before trial, a rabble surrounds the jail where Tom Robinson is being held. Scout, Jem, and Dill sneak out of their house and join Atticus, who foresees the mob attack. Scout has no idea what’s happening. Suddenly she happens to see her classmate’s father and inquires about his son. The man, feeling guilty, scatters the mob.

The trial begins and Atticus makes a great defense claiming that Ewell is lying. The children also watch trial proceedings from balcony. Jem believes that Atticus will be successful in the case. But white people’s biased jury convicts Tom. The verdict shocks Jem. He loses his faith in justice further when Tom is shot dead while attempting to flee from prison.

Although Tom Robinson is convicted, Ewell shows his rage against Atticus. One night when Jem and Scout are walking home back from a Halloween show, Bob Ewell assaults them. Jem’s arm gets broken. Somebody comes to