

Chapters One and Two

Standards Focus: Exposition

Plot is the action of a story. There are several parts to a plot which work together to help make the action of a story interesting. It is important that you know the parts of a plot and are able to recognize them in order to identify the theme of a text.

Exposition is the part of the story that gives the introductory background information on characters and situation, usually before the action of the story begins.

Harper Lee uses the first two chapters of *To Kill a Mockingbird* to really give the reader a complete exposition, including insight into the traditions and customs of the people of Maycomb, the details of the setting, the history of how the town came to be, and particulars of the Finch family tree.

Directions: Using the chart below, create a list of detailed notes from the exposition in Chapters One and Two. You may use direct quotes from the text or your own words based upon your reading. Be sure to include a minimum of 5 observations for each category. You may use a separate piece of paper if needed. A few examples have been done for you.

Finch Family History
<i>Ex. Simon Finch, the first Finch in Maycomb, was a "fur-trapping apothecary from England who made his fortune practicing medicine."</i>
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
Customs and Traditions of Maycomb
<i>Ex. "Ladies bathed before noon, after their three-o'clock naps, and by nightfall were like soft teacakes with frostings of sweat and sweet talcum."</i>
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
Details of the Setting (Including time period, location, etc.)
<i>Ex. "His mother...had entered him into a Beautiful Child contest and won five dollars. She gave the money to Dill, who went to the picture show twenty times on it."</i>
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____