“Peace cannot come from punishing innocent people,” (William J. Brennan). Punishment should be dealt to those who are guilty, not to whoever is not fancied. The book, *To Kill a Mockingbird,* by Harper Lee, a historical fiction, is a bildungsroman in which two children in an unfair world must not catch Maycomb’s common disease. The childrens’ father is a lawyer for a man accused of an awful crime just for the color of his skin. There are three roles in the book that are punished for being harmless; they consist of, Tom Robinson, Boo Radley, and a roly-poly. In society it is cruel to punish innocence.

Innocent people should not be punished. The character Tom Robinson is accused of an awful crime which he did not commit. This crime would put him on death row and his wife would be left to take care of their kids and she was “finding it hard to get work,” to support her small children (123). His family would not last long and would parish for the lies of an evil figure. To continue the evidence against him is the word of a drunken white man. Tom’s family will be left with nothing. Another point to consider is how African Americans would be viewed because of the conviction of Tom Robinson. The reputation that is put on African Americans would be mean, harsh, rapists; which is immoral. As a result the punishment to Tom’s family and the reputation of African American people is cruel and unjust.

Innocent people with an untold story suffer the most. The character Boo Radley is seen as the outcast in the story. He has stayed in his house since he was a teenager. He is locked in his house because he was out one night having fun and his father and his religious ideals did not believe it was appropriate for him to have fun of any kind. The people outside of Boo’s home, who had never had a chance to meet Boo, automatically assumed that he was a person who, “dined on raw squirrels and any cats he could catch” (13). These thoughts were painful to Boo because he could not defend against them. Additionally, the tree hole that boo used as a way of trying to reach the outside world was “filled up,” by his brother (62). The tree was a way to learn about boo and how he was not a raw animal eating kind of person. Since his brother blocked off the tree hole his kind reputation was destroyed and people continued to think poorly of him. His innocent acts were punished because of the cruel religious rules of his family and the naive eyes of people who did not know him.

Even tiny bugs can face cruelty in the darkest way. The rolly- poly is a peaceful creature that does no harm in the story. In the story he is almost put to death for being peaceful and minding his own business. He was misjudged for just being a small insect. Mr. Roly-poly was described a, “tight gray ball” (238). The color gray represents neutrality, meaning he couldn’t harm or hurt anyone. It was unfair for him to be unkindly played with and disrespected. This tiny being was tortured and almost put to death for appearing at the wrong place at the wrong time.

In humanity it is atrocious to abuse the innocent. The innocent characters who were treated un-fairly in *To Kill a Mockingbird* are Tom Robinson, Boo Radley, and Mr. Roly-poly. The reason we should treat people fairly is so society is not purely driven by anger and hate. When a society is driven by anger people will out- lash and hurt other innocent people who may have nothing but bump into them. Anger is what makes society an untamable beast.