

Quadruple Entry Journal

Thesis/ Topic: Overcoming prejudice (No thesis yet)

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<p style="text-align: center;">Box A: Evidence</p> <p>“Miss Caroline and I had conferred twice already, and they were looking at me in the innocent assurance that familiarity breeds understanding” (Lee 20).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Box B: Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scout is trying to explain to her teacher, Miss Caroline, why Walter Cunningham doesn’t have lunch. • First day of school, early in the book. • Completely falls flat: Miss Caroline doesn’t understand about Walter and Scout is punished
<p style="text-align: center;">Box C: Explanation/ Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning: the more you know someone, the more you will understand them • “innocent assurance” = child-like way of thinking • You can overcome prejudice by getting to know someone. • Problem: it doesn’t work. Scout’s teacher doesn’t understand her. • Why doesn’t it work? Maybe you need something more than getting to know someone? Scout only “conferred” (talked) on a shallow basis—they didn’t understand each other. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Box D: Suggestions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Carmen</u>: The analysis is good; makes sense • <u>Sean</u>: This is a negative example—what NOT to do to overcome prejudice. For an argument, you need a positive example—what CAN you do to overcome prejudice. • <u>Rita</u>: Use Atticus’ “You never really understand a person...” speech on page 30. It connects to this quote—maybe use them together • <u>Samantha</u>: Maybe missing ingredient is empathy.

For the Essay

Thesis: To overcome prejudice, empathy, not just familiarity, is needed; Scout demonstrates the ability to overcome prejudice with empathy in her deepening interactions with Calpurnia and Boo Radley.

At the start of the book, Scout assumes with “innocent assurance that familiarity breeds understanding” (Lee 20). However, this child-like belief is tested when she tries to connect with her new teacher, Miss Caroline. Despite having “conferred twice” (20), Miss Caroline does not understand Scout and punishes her for speaking up. This shows that, although being familiar with a person may be a good start to overcoming prejudice, it is clearly not enough. Atticus explains the missing ingredient to Scout later that night when he says “You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view [...] until you climb into his skin and walk around in it” (30). Atticus is describing empathy—knowing a person not just on a superficial level, but understanding them from the inside out.