A Harmful Ostracism

The Beast in *Beauty and the Beast*, by Gabrielle-Suzzane Barbot de Villeneuve, is a monster and is left alone in his castle. The Beast is labeled as an outcast by the rest of his town not because he deserved it but because they misinterpreted him, this situation reoccurs over and over in literature. For example take a scenario where a small girl witnesses two full grown men be disregarded by her community as fiends while she learns at the same time both men are kind and loving in the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. Through other characters reactions to Arthur Radley, Tom Robinson, Dolphus Raymond, and Robert Ewell the reader easily recognizes that Lee Shows there people are way too often regarded as outcasts. Lees work shows an idea where an outcast is ostracized by a group of people because that group of people don’t fully understand the outcast.

After Jem and Scout hear both sides of Arthur Radley’s life story they are able to understand he is a true good man. Early in the story both Finch children address Arthur by his nickname Boo and as they explain to the new kid in town “Boo is about six-and-half feet tall, judging from his tracks; he dined on raw squirrels and any cat he could catch” (16). Jem and Scout are heavily influenced by the rest of their neighbor and completely believe Boo eats squirrels. However the reader learns they are bogus stories when a nearby neighbor scolds Scout by saying “that is three-fourths colored folks and one-fourth Stephanie Crawford” (60). Three-fourths colored folk is a reference to the jargon of the era and the idea that colored people embellish all stories they tell, and one-fourth Stephanie Crawford is so Scout understands that squirrel eating Boo is just false. The reader is gradually informed that Boo is good as Jem and Scout get aided by him, however one example stand out above the others when Atticus says “thank you for my children, Arthur”(370). Atticus Finch indirectly informs the reader that Boo saved Jem and Scout and deserves to be thanked. As Jem and Scout acquired more knowledge about their supposedly creepy neighbor they learned both the local opinion on what he does to seeing and gathering their own opinion on him by what he does do for them, their learning of two opinions let them cast a fair opinion on Arthur Radley that is mutual by all others who have listened to both sides of his story.

Another man in Maycomb who is blackballed by Maycomb is Tom Robinson. Tom Robinson lost a court case because the jury chose to believe that he was guilty because he was not ‘white’, they didn’t they didn’t listen to both sides of his story with an unbiased opinion and thus Tom wasn’t given a fair sentence. The jury like almost all the town are racist and “would go along with them on the assumption-the evil assumption-that *all* Negroes lie, that *all* Negroes are basically immoral beings, that *all* Negro men are not to be trusted around our women”, Atticus states(273). Them being the rude and illiterate Ewells who are confident that the rest of the jury would be following their faux side of Tom’s case, and Negroes simply as to represent Tom because that is how Maycomb thinks about him. Later on through the rhetoric of logos Atticus proves that Tom didn’t commit the crime because “Mayella Ewell as beaten savagely by someone who led almost exclusively with his left…Tom Robinson now sits before, having taken the oath with the only good hand he possesses-his right hand”(272). If Mayella was beaten with someone’s left arm and Tom doesn’t have a left arm it’s not hard to connect the dots that Tom can’t have not been innocent. Stating that the jury would say Tom would be guilty no matter how obvious it is made because the jury is biased is a clever tool used by Atticus to display how Tom is only being blackballed because the town won’t listen to anything besides the skin their eyes see.

In 1930s southern Alabama a fine white man marries a Black women and is excluded from the town even rarely showing up because of his interracial marriage and the lack of the town to comprehend it. When Scout first describes her encounter with Mr. Dolphus Raymond she has only previously known what the town as told her so she thinks “As Mr. Dolphus Raymond was an evil man I accepted his invitation reluctantly” (267). Scout doesn’t really know if Mr. Raymond was evil or not she only knows what the people have said about him in regards of his choice to marry his wife. However Mr. Raymond’s reasoning becomes clear to Scout when he says “Some folks don’t – like the way I live. Now I could say the hell with ‘em, I don’t care if they don’t like it. I do say I don’t care if they don’t like it, right enough – but I don’t say the hell with ‘em” (628). Mr. Raymond says in more simple terms that he doesn’t care if people don’t like him but he won’t talk bad about them just because they don’t understand him. Just because Scout originally doesn’t understand Mr. Dolphus Raymond because the rest of the town implants an idea that he is married to someone of a different race her opinion is changed after realizing he doesn’t care he does so because he likes it.

Robert E. Lee Ewell and his family are the folks who are at the lowest spot in the social class order except they are ahead of all members of black skin. In the very beginning Burris Ewell goes to scouts class and says “Report and be damned to ye! Ain’t no snot-nosed slut of a schoolteacher ever born c’n make me do nothing’! You ain’t makin’ me go nowhere, missus. You just remember that, you ain’t makin’ me go nowhere!”(37). The absolute most absurd comment in the entire quote gives an insight to the Ewells life at home, his family isn’t a very supporting family and doesn’t care what can result of their actions because they are thought of as the least by the people around them. Around the climax Bob Ewell accuses Tom of raping his daughter. Mr. Ewell doesn’t care what can happen to Tom but believes feels secure in the means that the town will side with him over someone else and therefor doesn’t feel like the worst person in Maycomb if he can win a court case. Burris Ewell and his family are shunned but are above blacks such as Tom Robinson because Maycomb doesn’t realize he does what he does because they are such a poor illiterate family.

*To Kill a Mockingbird ­* is an amazing performance which conceives the belief people are excluded by those who don’t grasp the thoughts that people convey. Harper Lee uses Arthur Radley’s solitary life, Tom Robinson’s sentence, Dolphus Raymond’s Marriage, and The Ewells’s ignorance to teach her readers her main message. An idea of understanding another person is so that they don’t feel like they are uncared for. In the worst case scenario of the Ewells or Tom Robinson, ostracizing someone leads to hate or even death. And in the best case scenario it leaves them to be disregarded as someone who is mentally ill or evil. Only after a person understands someone else can they feel not like they are being left out, but feel like they are included and important.