To Kill a Mockingbird
Pre-Reading
8th Grade Cambridge
Summer Assignment

Background: Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* is the rare American novel that can be discovered with excitement in adolescence and reread into adulthood without fear of disappointment. Few novels so appealingly evoke the daily world of childhood in a way that seems convincing whether you are 16 or 66.

Essential Questions
• What is identity? To what extent do we determine our own identities? What influence does society have?
• What are stereotypes, and how do they affect how we see ourselves and how others see us?
• How does our need to belong influence our identity? How does it lead to the formation of "in" groups and "out" groups in our society?

Directions: To prepare to explore this novel when you return to school, please complete ALL THREE of the following activities:

A. Identity Chart

1. Draw a circle in the middle of a blank piece of paper
2. Begin with the words or phrases that describe the way you see yourself. Add those words and phrases to your chart.
3. Most people define themselves by using categories important to their culture. They include not only gender, age, and physical characteristics but also ties to a particular religion, class, neighborhood, school, and nation. Add any of these characteristics to your chart.
4. You may wish to add new categories to your identity chart. Consider these questions as you create new labels:
- How much of your identity do you create and how much of it is determined by things beyond your control?
- What other factors influence your identity?
- What can you add that does not fall into any of the categories listed above?

5. How does the way that other people think about you impact your identity? Consider multiple perspectives. Think about these questions as you think about what else to add to your chart:
- What labels would others attach to you?
- Do they see you as a leader or a follower? A conformist or a rebel?
- Are you a peacemaker, a bully, or a bystander?
- How do society's labels influence the way you see yourself? The kinds of choices you and others make each day? For example, if a person is known as a bully, how likely is he or she to live up to that label?

You MUST have a minimum of 15 characteristics.

An example of the beginning of an identity chart:

B. Create a Visual/Oral Representation of the Chart

Using your Identity chart, create a visual or oral representation of what you made. You may draw, print, or cut out your images. You may use any of the following ideas, or be more creative! Make sure to include your chart in your visual representation.
- Poster
- Tri-fold board
- Powerpoint/Prezi
- Podcast
- Profile
- Animation/Movie
- Cartoon/Comic strip

c. Making Connections: Research
Looking at Discrimination Throughout History

Context: Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* explores many different types of discrimination, which is defined in a social context as treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction in favor of or against, a person based on the group, class, or category to which the person is perceived to belong. Excluding African slavery in America, the Holocaust, and the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's, please find examples of discrimination using the following guidelines:

- Locally: Anywhere in the state of Florida

- Nationally: This could include discrimination within the United States (excluding Florida) and/or involving the United States overseas

- Internationally: This could include anywhere OUTSIDE of the United States

Please provide the following information. You may write out your responses or type them out.

1. Provide the source for your information in proper MLA format.
   For example: Dean, Cornelia. "Executive on a Mission: Saving the Planet." *The New York Times*, 22 May 2007, www.nytimes.com/2007/05/22/science/earth/22ander.html?_r=0. Accessed 12 May 2016
   You may use the following website as a guide:
   https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/
2. Provide examples of past discrimination and present discrimination locally, nationally, and internationally. Examples should relate to culture.
3. Provide background information about the discrimination, what was the outcome, and compare or contrast it to another example. You may use a Venn Diagram, like the example below, to show similarities and differences.

RememberDiscrimination is not limited to racism, it could include ALL forms of discrimination.

HintTry to find examples in news articles and videos and historical documents. You may even find first person accounts.

If you have any questions, please email me at carapc@leeschools.net.

Example 1   Example 2