***TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD MOVIE PERMISSION SLIP***

**Child Name**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*SUBJECTS* — U.S./1929-1941, the Law & Diversity; Literature/U.S.;   
*SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING* — Justice; Male Role Model;  
        Coming of Age; Courage; Mental Illness; Parenting;  
        Disabilities;  
*MORAL-ETHICAL EMPHASIS* — Trustworthiness; Respect;  
        Responsibility; Fairness; Caring; Citizenship.

Age: 11+; No MPAA Rating; Drama; 1962; 129 Minutes; B & W. Available

**Description:** Atticus Finch is a lawyer and single parent in a small Southern town during the Great Depression. He has two young children: Jem and Scout. When Finch is appointed by the local judge to defend a black man accused of raping a white woman, most townspeople expect only a token defense, yet he affirms the value of a fair trial and struggles to see justice done. A separate plot line concerns how the children come to accept a mentally ill neighbor.

**Rationale for Using the Movie:** The script for the film was written by the author of the novel, Harper Lee, and remains true to the novel's intentions, thus the film and the book reinforce each other. T*o Kill a Mockingbird*, with its lessons about dignity, tolerance and respect is an excellent account of the racism that dominated the legal and social system in the South until after the Civil Rights Movement. Atticus Finch is one of the best role models ever shown in film.

**Objectives/Student Outcomes Using this *Learning Guide*:** Students who see the film will gain easier access to the novel, although the film by itself clearly demonstrates Lee's universal themes. Through the discussion questions and assignments at the end of this guide, students will be able to exercise research, writing and speaking skills dealing with elements of literature as well as the value of the story's themes to society.

**Possible Problems:** Minor. The n\*\*\* word is used several times by whites who are portrayed as ignorant and racist. The word "boy," applied to a black man in a derogatory manner, is also used by the villain. This is a story about a place and time in American history when these words were often used to describe African Americans. The story disapproves of the use of these terms.

**Note to Parents About Book and Film:**     The book, a Pulitzer Prize winning novel and one of the most widely read books in American Literature, is an important part of the reading curriculum across the country. It is a superior source from which to teach reading and writing standards to students.

Please initial the appropriate response:

Yes my child has my permission to watch this film\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

No my child does not have permission to watch the film\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_