To Kill A Mockingbird Character Descriptions

SCOUT: A young girl about to experience the events that will shape the rest of her life, she should, ideally, seem as young as nine. Scout is courageous and forthright. If a question occurs to her, she’ll ask it. Age is approximately 10-12.*

JEM: He is a few years older than his sister Scout, and like his sister - perhaps even more than his sister - he’s reaching out to understand their unusual and thus not conventionally-admirable father. Probably the strongest undercurrent in Jem is his desire to communicate with his father. Age is approximately 10-14.*

ATTICUS: He’s tall, quietly impressive, reserved, civilized and nearly fifty. He wears glasses and because of the poor sight in his left eye, looks with his right eye when he wants to see something well. It’s typical of Atticus that when he found out he was an extraordinary shot with a rifle, he gave up shooting - because he considered it gave him an unfair advantage over the animals. He’s quietly courageous and without heroics, he does what he considers just. As someone comments about him - “we trust him to do right.” Age is approximately late 30’s-mid 50’s.*

CALPURNIA: Black, proud and capable, she has raised the motherless Scout and Jem. She’s a self-educated woman and she’s made quite a good job of it. Her standards are high and her discipline as applied to Scout and Jem is uncompromising. Age is approximately 30-60*

DILL: Small, blond and wise beyond his years, he is about the same age as Jem. Dill is neater and better dressed than his friends. There’s an undercurrent of sophistication to him, but his laugh is sudden and happy. Obviously there is a lack in Dill’s own home life, and he senses something in Atticus that’s missing from his own family relationship. Age is approximately 10-13.*

MAUDIE ATKINSON: Younger than Atticus, but of his generation, she’s a lovely sensitive woman. Though belonging to the time and place of this play, she has a wisdom and compassion that suggests the best instincts of the South of that period. Age is approximately 40-45.*

WALTER CUMMINGHAM: Cunningham is a hard-up farmer who shares the prejudices of this time and place but who is nevertheless a man who can be reached as a human being. He also has seeds of leadership, for when his attitude is changed during the confrontations with Atticus, he takes the others with him. Age is approximately 40-50.*

REVEREND SYKES: Rev. Sykes is the black minister of the Flint Purchase Church, called that because it was paid for with the first money earned by the freed slaves. He’s an imposing man with a strong stage presence. He should have a strong “minister’s” voice. Age is approximately 50-60.*

HECK TATE: Heck is the town sheriff and a complex man. He does his duty as he sees it, and enforces the law without favor. The key to this man’s actual feelings is revealed in his final speeches to Atticus, and this attitude should be an undercurrent to his earlier actions. Age is approximately 40-50.*
To Kill A Mockingbird Character Descriptions (continued)

STEPHANIE CRAWFORD: She’s a neighborhood gossip, and she enjoys it to the hilt. There’s an enthusiasm in her talking over the people of her town that makes it almost humorous. Sometimes she says things that are petty, but partly it’s because she simply can’t keep herself from stirring things up. Age is approximately 60-70.*

BOO RADLEY: Arthur Radley is a pale recluse who hasn’t been outside his house in fifteen years. It takes an extraordinary emergency to bring him out, and once out he’s uncertain about how to deal with people, and with his mission accomplished, he’s eager to return to his sanctuary. Age is approximately 40-45.*

MRS. DUBOSE: She is an old woman - ill, walking with difficulty, her pain making her biting, bitter, and angry. However, she’s fighting a secret battle within herself, a battle about which few people are aware, and her existence has in it a point of importance for Jem and Scout. Age is approximately 70-80.*

TOM ROBINSON: Robinson is black, handsome and vital, but with a left hand crippled by a childhood accident and held against his chest. He’s married to Helen and they have young children. He faces up to a false charge with quiet dignity. There’s an undercurrent in him of kindness, sensitivity and consideration. Age is approximately 25-35.

JUDGE TAYLOR: The judge is a wintry man of the South, who does what he can within the context of his time to see justice done in his court. While he tries to run his court impartially, his sympathy is with Tom. Age is approximately 60-70.*

MR. GILMER: He is a public prosecutor who is doing his job in trying to convict Tom. In many ways his manner is cruel and hurtful. And yet under all this, he too has unexpressed doubts as to Tom’s guilt, and his heart isn’t really in this conviction. Still - he goes after it, and it’s a hard thing. Age is approximately 30-50.

BOB EWELL: Ewell is a little bantam-cock of a man who lives with his large family by the town dump. As Harper Lee describes their situation - “The town gave them Christmas baskets, welfare money, and the back of their hand.” Bob thinks this trial will make him an important man, and when Atticus destroys his credibility, Bob’s rage and frustration border on paranoia. Age is approximately 40-50.*

MAYBELLA: The oldest daughter of Bob Ewell, she’s a desperately lonely and overworked young woman whose need for companionship - any companionship - has overwhelmed every other emotion. However, when her effort to reach out explodes in her face, she fights just as desperately for what she thinks is survival. Age is approximately 18-22.*

EXTRAS: Townspeople, Farmers, Rev. Sykes congregation, Mob and Spectators: Various ages and either male or female.

*RCCT casts age appropriately. These ages are approximate. Actors should be able to play these ages. Some ages will be altered, based on the actors who audition, if the change in age does not adversely affect the playwright’s intention.

For further information on To Kill A Mockingbird, please call 909-477-2775. For tickets, please call the Lewis Family Playhouse Box Office at 909-477-2752 or order online at www.lewisfamilyplayhouse.com (Additional service fees apply for online ordering).