

Overview: We are kicking off our first semester with Harper Lee's classic novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. In order to fully understand and appreciate the novel, we must first create a context with which to read the novel. A novel's **context** refers to the circumstances that form the setting for an event, statement, or idea, and in terms of which it can be fully understood and assessed (Dictionary.com). We will be viewing, analyzing, and discussing images from the time period the novel was set: 1930-1940 (think Great Depression to World War II).

Directions:

Step 1: Go to <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/fsa/>

Step 2: Depending on your number (1, 2 or 3) view the following images associated with your assigned city.

- 1s: Search for Selma, Alabama
- 2s: Search for Eutaw, Alabama
- 3s: Search for Greensboro, Alabama

Step 3: Once you have found the gallery of images for your city, click on "slideshow" view (upper right) so that it **DOES NOT** display the captions. View images (**NO CAPTIONS**) once through. When you are finished, jot down some preliminary impressions of that group of photos. You can record your impressions in the "OBSERVATIONS" or "REFLECTIONS" column of your chart.

Here are some questions to get you started:

- What do you notice first?
- How are they arranged?
- What, if any, words do you see?
- What is missing from this image?
- What can you learn from examining this image?
- What people and objects are shown?
- What is the physical setting?
- What other details can you see?

Step 4: Return to the "grid" view (upper right) and review the images again--this time, WITH captions. When you are finished, review your initial impressions. Were you correct in your impressions? Did you notice anything that the captions didn't "capture"? **Write a paragraph describing your assigned images, your initial impressions, and information gained from the captions. Please write in complete sentences**

Step 5: Choose ONE image from your selected city--one that "sticks" with you, even after the slideshow has ended. Complete the same chart with the individual image you have selected ("Observations", "Reflections", and "Questions". Do some more research about the image you have selected and how the information you have acquired relates to the collection of images.

Here are some questions to get you started:

- Where was the photograph taken?

- When was the photograph taken?
- Why was the photograph taken?
- What was the purpose for capturing this image?
- Who is the intended audience for this image?
- Was this image published for public view?

Write a paragraph describing your chosen image, your initial impressions and information gained from your research of the image. How does this image further shed light on the context of the time period?

Using your outside research and the information gathered in your charts, make a statement (one sentence) about the historical, social, economic, political context of this novel. Remember--you only get one sentence. :)

Grading:

You grade will be earned based on the following criteria:

Following directions
Quality of thought
Depth of analysis