**Scottsboro Boys Trial**

When Harper Lee was a young girl, about six-years-old, there was a highly publicised court case, the Scottsboro Trials, involving several young African-American men.

There are many parallels between the trial of Tom Robinson in To Kill a Mockingbird and one of the most notorious series of trials in the nation's history ‚ the Scottsboro Trials. On March 25, 1931, a freight train was stopped in Paint Rock, a tiny community in Northern Alabama, and nine young African American men who had been riding the rails were arrested. As two white women - one underage - descended from the freight cars, they accused the men of raping them on the train. The accused were taken to Scottsboro jail.

Within a month the first man was found guilty and sentenced to death. There followed a series of sensational trials condemning the other men solely on the testimony of the older woman, a known prostitute, who was attempting to avoid prosecution under the Mann Act, prohibiting taking a minor across state lines for immoral purposes, like prostitution.

Although none of the accused were executed, a number remained on death row for many years. The case was not settled until 1976 with the pardon of the last of the Scottsboro defendants.

This trial has many similarities to Tom Robinson's trial including the word of a poor White woman against the word of an African-American man and the fact that there was no real evidence.

Below is a picture of the nine men with their lawyer, Samuel Leobowitz.

