

To Kill A Mockingbird

Character Foils

A technique an author uses to make his or her characters' traits more obvious to the reader is that of pairing foils. Two characters who are very different in terms of their traits, values, and goals will be placed together in several incidents in the novel. The purpose of employing this technique is to make the contrast even more visible; that is, to make the "bad person" seem very corrupt while highlighting the excellent qualities of the "good person."

DIRECTIONS: From the scrambled list above the chart, choose the character who is the most different from one of those listed in column A. Write the name of his/her foil in column B. Next, in column C, explain how these two people are most different in the novel.

Character List

Dill Harris	Lula	Calpurnia	Miss Stephanie
The Cunninghams	Mr. Nathan Radley	Mr. Ewell	

Column A

Column B

Column C

One has a stable home-life and the other moves a lot. Also, Jem confronts his feelings. The other does not.

Aunt Alexandra

Atticus

Miss Maudie

The Ewells

Calpurnia

Both were racists who suffered from crippling addictions. Mr. Ewell continued to drown his "sorrows" in alcohol while the other tried to fight his/her demon.