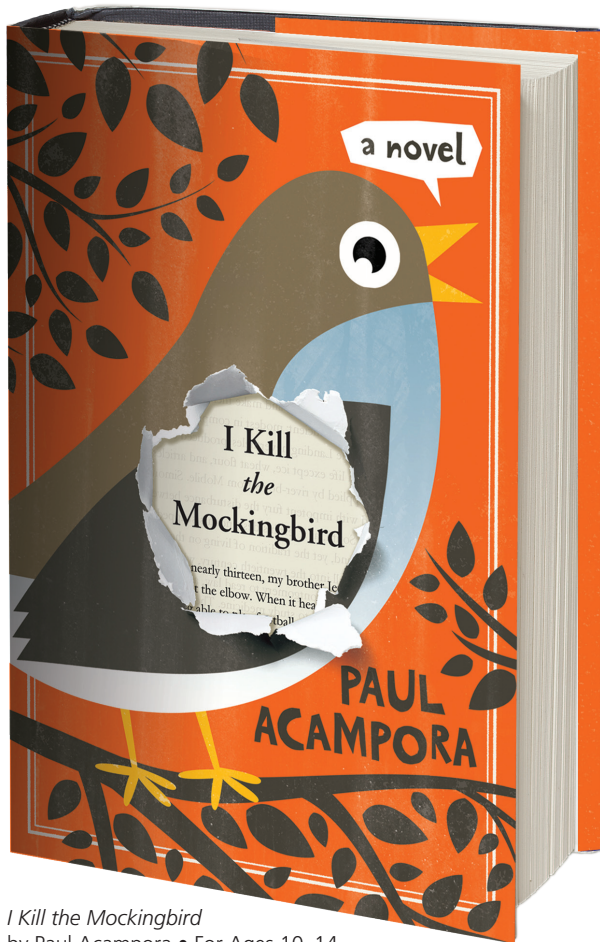


DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FOR I KILL THE MOCKINGBIRD



I Kill the Mockingbird
by Paul Acampora • For Ages 10–14
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About the Book:

When Lucy, Elena, and Michael receive their summer reading list, they are excited to see *To Kill A Mockingbird* included. But not everyone in their class shares the same enthusiasm. So they hatch a plot to get the entire town talking about the well-known Harper Lee classic. They plan controversial ways to get people to read the book, including re-shelving copies of the book in bookstores so that people think they are missing and starting a website committed to “destroying the mockingbird.” Their efforts are successful when all of the hullabaloo starts to direct more people to the book. But soon their exploits start to spin out of control and they unwittingly start a mini revolution in the name of books.

About the Author:

Paul Acampora is a avid reader, an enthusiastic dad, and a ferocious fan of being human. Paul lives in Allentown, Pennsylvania, with his wife and two kids. Paul is a frequent contributor to the Scholastic Storyworks magazine. *I Kill the Mockingbird* is his third novel for young readers.

Discussion Questions:

1. Lucy, Michael, and Elena have been friends forever, but now their friendship is changing. How? Why?
2. Describe the different roles that teachers—including Miss Caridas, “Fat Bob,” and even Lucy’s Dad—play in *I Kill the Mockingbird*.
3. According to the *Guinness Book of World Records*, the heaviest person on record weighed approximately 1,400 pounds. Why do you think the author describes Fat Bob as weighing 4,000 pounds?
4. What are some things that Michael does not like about *To Kill a Mockingbird*?
5. “When you want something,” says Michael, “it’s like admitting that your life has a hole in it.” What are some things that Michael, Lucy, and Elena really want? And what holes are they each trying to fill?
6. How might the story be different if Michael or Elena or one of the adult characters were telling it?
7. Why did Lucy think that the *I Kill the Mockingbird* plot was a good idea? Do you think it was a good idea? Why did her friends go along with it?
8. Could the situation presented in *I Kill the Mockingbird* have taken place before the Internet?
9. Name some books or movies or music that you think everybody should know about. Why are these works special to you? Why should they be special to everybody?
10. At the end of the story, a big bookstore chain announces plans to mimic the *I Kill the Mockingbird* conspiracy with a campaign called I HARPOON THE WHALE. What will it take for I HARPOON THE WHALE to make *Moby Dick* irresistible?



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