

To Kill a Mockingbird Idioms and Allusions

Chapter One

Andrew Jackson: the seventh President of the United States (1829-1837)

Battle of Hastings: a decisive battle in the Norman Conquests of England in 1066

Cornwall: a country at the southwest tip of England

Creeks: also called the Muscogee Indians, a band of Indians who in the 1500s occupied all of southeast U.S.

“disturbance between the North and the South”: The Civil War (1861-1865)

Dracula: the 1931 film version of the novel with the same title

Edgar Rice Burroughs: (1875 –1950) was an American author, best known for his creation of the jungle hero Tarzan and the heroic Mars adventurer John Carter, although he produced works in many genres.

flivver: another name for the Model-T Ford

Gray Ghost: a novel whose character Seckatary Hawkins is the fictional lead character of a series of children's novels authored by Robert F. Schulkers. The eleven novels were first published between 1921 and 1932, although many appeared first in serialized form in *The Cincinnati Enquirer* and hundreds of other newspapers around the country

“he’d wear us out”: meaning to exhaust or tire someone

Jamaica: an island country in the West Indies, south of Cuba

John Wesley: (1702-1791) Founder of the Methodist Church.

“John Wesley’s strictures on buying and selling...possessions of human chattels”: Wesley promoted “Christian Perfection” or holiness of heart and life. His evangelical theory inspired Methodists to lead reform in social injustice issue such as abolition

Meridian, Mississippi: a city on the east side of Mississippi

Merlin: King Arthur’s adviser, prophet, and magician

Mobile: a city in southwest Alabama

“No money to buy it with” an allusion to the Great Depression

“Nothing to fear but fear itself” an allusion to President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s first Inaugural Address

Oliver Optic: a pseudonym for William Taylor Adams (1822-1897) who wrote novels such as *Hatchie, the Guardian Slave* and *Indoors and Out*

Pensacola: a city in northwest Florida

“Persecution of those who call themselves Methodists at the hands of their more liberal brethren”: The Church of England persecuted other religious groups during the mid 17th Century

Philadelphia: a city in southeast Pennsylvania

Rover Boys a popular series of children’s books (30 books) published between 1899 and 1926. They were written by Edward Stratemeyer.

“strike a match under him”: meaning to coax someone out

stumphole whiskey: illegally made and sold whiskey that would be hidden in the holes of tree stumps

Tuscaloosa: a city in central Alabama

Victor Appleton: the writer of *Tom Swift* stories

Chapter Two

“a condition of having your tail in a crack” meaning in a difficult place

“a storm of laughter” meaning a loud outburst of laughter

Big Mules: Black Belt-Big Mule Coalition was a group of businessmen and politicians who represented and promoted interests of large-scale agriculture and industry mainly around the Birmingham area of Alabama

Bullfinch; an allusion to *Bulfinch's Mythology*, a famous collection of Greek myths. Jem's kidding, but his reference is another indication of how much of a reader Scout has always been

Catawba worms: are actually not worms but moth larvae used in fishing

“crash hit them the hardest” Refers to the Stock Market Crash of 1929

Dewey Decimal System: a classification system used by libraries to catalogue books

“for all this racket” meaning lots of noise

“lying his head off” means to lie continuously or extensively

“mortgaged to the hilt” the hilt is the handle of a sword or knife so to be mortgaged to the hilt is to be deeply in debt or mortgaged to the extreme

“starting off on the wrong foot”: means to begin in a bad way

Tarzan and the Ant Men the tenth book in the *Tarzan* series by Edgar Rice Burroughs

union suit a type of one-piece underwear originated in the 19th Century

Winston County, Alabama seceded from Alabama when Alabama seceded from the Union during the Civil War meaning they fought with the North

WPA: Works Progress Administration renamed Work Projects Administration in 1939. It was the largest New Deal agency employing millions

Chapter Three

“a toadfrog that lived in a hall” refers to Kenneth Grahame's novel *Wind in the Willows*

“below the belt” meaning not fair

cootie slang term for lice

“I'll be dogged” idiom expressing amazement or surprise

“last-will-and-testament diction” meaning precise wording

“Lord sent me more than I could bear” a reference to 1 Corinthians 10:13 stating: No temptation has overtaken you that is unusual for human beings. But God is faithful, and he will not allow you to be tempted beyond your strength. Instead, along with the temptation he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to endure it.

Chapter Four

Group Dynamics: the study of group behavior was introduced to the United States by German American psychologist Kurt Lewin

“in a blaze of glory” an allusion to Milton's *Paradise Lost*. In Book 3 God is speaking about Man's failure to resist temptation will, however, be Man's fault since God has provided Man with both the reason and the will to resist these temptations.

“To whom our Saviour calmly thus replied:—

“Thou neither dost persuade me to seek wealth

For empire's sake, nor empire to affect

For glory's sake, by all thy argument.

For what is glory but the blaze of fame,

Indian head pennies were made from 1859-1909. The obverse side of the coin features the head of an Indian facing left wearing a feathered headdress on which is written liberty

Chapter Five

“a grain of sense” meaning the smallest amount possible

“acid tongue in her head” acid is very bitter in taste thus someone with an acid tongue tends to speak bitterly or sharply

Brigadier General Joe Wheeler The youngest Confederate general nicknamed “Fightin’ Joe”

“cemented our friendship” means to make the friendship firm or solid in its foundation

“dried up” here meaning quieted or stopped talking

“drove you closer” here Scout is saying she feels pushed away from her relationship with Jem and Dill and feels closer to Miss Maudie

foot-washing Baptist a devout Baptist who takes the Bible literally, also called a Primitive Baptist

“get Miss Maudie’s goat” means to make a person disgusted or angry

“God’s loving folks like you love yourself” a reference to Matthew 22:37-39 stating: ³⁷Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.

Old Testament pestilence a reference to Exodus 9 in which The Lord destroys cattle of Egyptians, but not of Israelites—Boils and blains on Egypt—He sends hail and fire upon people of Pharaoh, but not on people of Israel.

played cat-and-mouse means to be coy or evasive with someone

“raveling a thread” hear meaning thinking aloud

Second Battle of Marne or Battle of Reims. Took place on July 15 through August 6, 1918. It was the last major German offensive on the Western Front

“women are a sin” reference to Eve in Genesis 3: 6-7

Chapter Six

Franklin stove (named after its inventor, Benjamin Franklin) is a metal-lined fireplace with baffles in the rear to improve the airflow, providing more heat and less smoke than an ordinary open fireplace.

Kingdom coming a reference to the Book of Revelations in the Bible written by the John the apostle thought to have been written 96 AD. It prophesizes the Great Tribulation as well as the Second Coming of Christ and the final overthrow and punishment of Satan

“they’ll wake the dead” meaning to be so loud as to wake those who are "sleeping" the most soundly: the dead.

Chapter Seven

Egyptian Period The civilization began around 3150 BC with the political unification of Upper and Lower Egypt under the first pharaoh, and it developed over the next three millennia

“walked on eggs” means to walk carefully

Chapter Eight

Appomattox: a former village in central Virginia where, on April 9, 1865, Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at the Appomattox Court House ending the Civil War

Bellingraths: Walter and Bessie Bellingrath opened their large, beautiful gardens to the public in 1932 The Bellingrath Gardens are located in Mobile, Alabama

Lane cake: a rich, white cake

Rosetta Stone: Discovered in Egypt in 1799, the Rosetta Stone is a large block of basalt inscribed with a report of a decree passed in 196 BC. It was written in three languages. The stone gave historians many clues as to the meaning of Egyptian hieroglyphics.

Chapter Nine

“as sure as eggs” meaning a sure thing; it’s bound to happen just as chickens are sure to lay eggs

“bowed to the inevitable” mean to realize that an event is unavoidable and thus to resist fighting it

“drew a bead on him” means to aim at or focus on someone

“drive him nuts” means to annoy or irritate someone

Confederate veteran: refers to a veteran (soldier) of the Civil War who fought for the South

General Hood: Lieutenant-General John B. hood, a Confederate officer

House of Commons: the lower branch of the legislature in Great Britain

“Let the cup pass from you” on the night before the crucifixion, Jesus prayer to the Lord:

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done.”
[Luke 22:42] By asking the Lord to “take the cup from me” he was praying that he might avoid his fate. In Greek, one of the figurative meanings of cup is fate. Uncle Jack’s comment to Atticus calls upon this reference because he understands that Atticus is not looking forward to his fate: having to defend Tom Robinson.

Lord Melbourne: ((1779-1848) Queen Victoria’s first Prime Minister. Melbourne had the reputation of being something of a ladies’ man

Missouri Compromise: (1820) allowed Missouri to be admitted to the Union as a slave state but stipulated no more slave states would be allowed above the southern border of Missouri.

Mount Everest: the highest known mountain in the world (29,028 feet), Everest is part of the Himalayas, on the border of Nepal and Tibet.

“nearsighted old gentleman who had a cat named Hodge”: refers to Dr. Samuel Johnson who was an English author (1709-1784)

Ol’ Blue Light: a reference to Stonewall Jackson

“on tenterhooks” means to be filled with suspense or anxiety

Prime Minister: the head of a parliamentary government, such as Great Britain

“set my teeth permanently on edge” is to annoy someone or make them feel nervous

Stonewall Jackson: a Confederate lieutenant general

Chapter Ten

“break camp”: pack up; move on

Calpurnia is not supposed to go to the neighbor’s front porch: refers to the Jim Crow Laws (1876-1965) which was a racial caste system that mandated segregation of whites and blacks

Jew’s Harp: is a mouth harp; considered one of the oldest instruments in the world

“Marksmanship’s a gift of God” reference to 1 Corinthians 12 where Paul writes about the gifts of the spirit given to all

“People in their right minds never take pride in their talents” refers to Proverb 8:13: “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil, pride and arrogance, and the evil way”

“plugging away”; means to keep trying something

Providence: reference to God’s guiding salvation and grace

“tooth and nail”: to fight fiercely as possible literally with teeth and nails if necessary

“tribal curse”: a family curse or shared affliction

Chapter Eleven

“Alabama might go to the Rose Bowl again”: The 1926 Rose Bowl game, in which the University of Alabama Crimson Tide defeated the heavily favored University of Washington Huskies, is often remembered in Alabama and throughout the South for restoring some measure of pride to the region.

CSA pistol: 19th Century double barrel pistol

Dixie Howell: Millard “Dixie” Howell (1912-1971) Howell played college football at the University of Alabama from 1932 to 1934. He was a consensus All-America selection in 1934 at the quarterback position, as well as being known as a good punter. He was also a member of the all-time Rose Bowl team and was inducted to the College Football Hall of Fame in 1970.

‘druthers: preference: a contraction of the phrase I’d rather

Ivanhoe: a novel written in 1818 by Sir Walter Scott. It is set in the 12th Century England

“slow fuse”: refers to a person who is not easily upset or angered

“stood as much guff”; guff is foolish or brash talk

“when the chips are down” reference to poker when a gambler must place his bet before revealing his cards showing what he is willing to risk: meaning at the most important time

Chapter Twelve

Blackstone’s Commentaries: refers to a series of lectures delivered by the English jurist Sir William Blackstone at Oxford in 1753 and published as Commentaries on the Laws of England in four volumes between 1765 and 1769,

Garden of Gethsemane: is a garden at the foot of the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem most famous as the place where Jesus and his disciples prayed the night before Jesus' crucifixion. According to Luke 22:43–44, Jesus' anguish in Gethsemane was so deep that "his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."

Hunt’s The Light of the World: The Light of the World (1853–54) is an allegorical painting by William Holman Hunt representing the figure of Jesus preparing to knock on an overgrown and long-unopened door, illustrating Revelation 3:20: Behold, I stand at

the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me".

Impurity of Women doctrine is an Allusion to Eve and the temptation of man causing the fall of man

Moses: Exodus relates the story of Moses who eventually led God's chosen people out of captivity in Egypt through the desert and to the promise land

"On Jordan's Stormy Banks" refers to hymn called "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand" authors were Words: Samuel Stennett, 1787. Music: M. Durham, 1835

"puttin' on airs" means to act like the master of something or someone

Shadrach: refers to Daniel 3: 12-29. Shadrach was one of Daniel's three companions, who, together with Meshach and Abednego, was miraculously saved from destruction in Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace

sit-down strikes; During the Great Depression, sit down strikes became a real force in labor relations in the U.S. Unlike regular strikes, workers would literally sit down on the job refusing to leave the building until their demands were met. One of the more famous sit-down strikes took place at the General Motors plant in Flint, Michigan.

"There's a land beyond the river" is a reference to "When they ring the golden bells" a hymn written by Dion (aka Daniel) De Marbelle, 1887 (1818-1903)

spite fence: an overly tall fence typically constructed between adjacent lots by a property owner who is annoyed with, or wishes to annoy, a neighbor or who wishes to completely obstruct the view between lots.

"They got their church, we got our'n" is a reference to Jim Crow Laws and segregation of whites and blacks primarily in Southern states

"to scrape a few barnacles off the ship of state": refers to the governor saying it was necessary to reform the state government (taxation and expenditures)

Chapter Thirteen

Governor William Wyatt Bibb: (1781-1820) He was a member of the Democratic-Republican political party. Bibb served as governor of the Alabama Territory from August 1817 to Dec. 1819, and as the first governor of the state of Alabama from Dec. 1819 to his death on July 10, 1820.

Lord's Day: meaning the Sabbath or Sunday

Lydia E. Pinkham: a maker and manufacturer of patent medicines in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Most of Pinkham's medical concoctions were aimed at women and the majority of them contained liberal amounts of alcohol

Reconstruction: the period, roughly 1867-1877, following the Civil War when the North tried to help rebuild the South. They tried to reorganize and reestablish the southern states. Reconstruction is widely considered unsuccessful

Reconstruction Rule: Rejecting the lenient reconstruction measures initiated by Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson, the U.S. Congress, under the control of the Radical Republicans, passed the punitive Reconstruction Act of 1867 on March 7, over Johnson's veto. This act sought to rebuild the governments of the Southern states in the Northern mold and ensure the civil rights of the freed blacks. The members of the existing state governments in the South, made up of the leaders of the Confederacy, were removed, and the states were placed under the military rule of the U.S. Army. No one who had supported the Confederate government was allowed to vote or hold political

office. As a result, the state governments were controlled by scalawags and carpetbaggers and the military rulers of the Radical Republican Congress.

Rice Christians: Christian converts from third-world nations especially Asia

“summer’s going to be a hot one” Atticus is referring more to people’s tempers than to the weather

“traveled in state” means to travel as a person of wealth and rank

“War between the States” reference to the American Civil War

Chapter Fourteen

Hoover Cart: refers to old automobiles that are pulled by mules

soil erosion: refers to the Dust Bowl which was a period of severe dust storms causing major ecological and agricultural damage to American and Canadian prairie

Chapter Fifteen

battlement: a low wall with open spaces built on top of a castle wall or turret used to shoot arrows for protection of the inhabitants

change of venue: is the legal term for moving the location of a trial

flying buttresses: a support connected to a building by an arch. They were frequently made of stone or block

Gothic: a style of architecture developed in Western Europe between the 12th Century and the 16th Century

“he had seen the light” in this case means he has become religious

Henry W. Grady: Henry Woodfin Grady (1850 –1889) was a journalist and orator who helped reintegrate the states of the former Confederacy into the Union after the American Civil War.

Ku Klux: (KKK) is the name of several past and present secret domestic militant organizations in the United States, originating in the Southern states and eventually having national scope, that are best known for advocating white supremacy and acting as terrorists while hidden behind conical hats, masks and white robes. The KKK has a record of terrorism, violence, and lynching to intimidate, murder, and oppress African Americans, Jews and other minorities and to intimidate and oppose Roman Catholics and labor unions.

“Nearer my God to Thee”: is a 19th century Christian hymn based loosely on Genesis 28:11-19, the story of Jacob's dream. Genesis 28:11-12 can be translated as follows: "So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it..."

snipe hunt: a practical joke. The victim is taken on a hunt deep into a forest at night and told to look for and capture “snipes” which are small, flightless birds. In this case the birds are not available in the area.

“that boy might go to the chair”: reference to capital punishment and the use of the electric chair for execution

Chapter Sixteen

“A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance”: Proverbs 15:13 “A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.”

“black balcony”: is an example of segregation typically found in this period in the South. Blacks often had separate entrances as well.

blind spots: a prejudice or area of ignorance that someone has but is unaware of having

Braxton Bragg: (1817-1876) the commander of the Western Confederate Army during the Civil War. Bragg led a less-than-distinguished career in the military and his army unit was eventually defeated

“calming the turbulent sea” refers to Mark 4: 35-40 where Jesus calms the sea “^{35(A)} On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." ³⁶And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. ³⁷And a great windstorm arose, and the waves ^(B) were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹And he awoke and ^(C) rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and ^(D) there was a great calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, "Why are you ^(E) so afraid? Have you still no faith?"

“diggin’ in” means to resist stubbornly

“don’t count your chickens before they are hatched” means don’t be hasty in evaluating one’s assets.

Ethiopia: During the time of the Old Testament, Ethiopia was a kingdom in Northeast Africa. Today Ethiopia is a country in Eastern Africa

Foot-washing Baptist: sometimes referred to as Primitive Baptist. These churches attempt to retain or restore what is seen as primitive (or original) patterns of Christianity, such as baptism by immersion, family integrated worship, a cappella singing, closed communion, and feet washing.

“He that cometh in vanity departeth in darkness”: refers to Romans 1: 21-22 which states “For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools”

Jitney Jungle: a supermarket chain. In the 1930’s supermarkets were still relatively new to American thus most shoppers did business at smaller grocery stores such as family owned businesses.

Mennonites: Mennonites are a branch of the Christian church, with roots in the radical wing of the 16th century Protestant Reformation. Part of the group known as Anabaptists (because they re-baptized adult believers), the Mennonites took their name from Menno Simons, a Dutch priest who converted to the Anabaptist faith and helped lead it to prominence in Holland by the mid-16th century.. Mennonites are known for their emphasis on issues such as peace, justice, simplicity, community, service, and mutual aid.

Nehi Cola: fruit flavored sodas introduced in America in 1924

Prohibition: The Prohibition Party (PRO) was best known for its historic opposition to the sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages. It was an integral part of the Temperance Movement, but never one of the nation’s leading political parties. The party dramatically declined following the repeal of Prohibition in 1933.

Roman Carnival: as described by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, serves as a particular example of the "carnavalesque" in early modern Europe. The notion of a world turned on its head is the leading principle behind the "carnavalesque"; it's a world where men dress as women and paupers act as kings. However, the atmosphere of the Roman Carnival, and any Carnival-like festivities that were held throughout the year, was more than a time for people to celebrate for the sake of celebrating. These seemingly chaotic points in history served a much greater social cause than the surface might suggest.

William Jennings Bryan: (1860-1925) an American political leader, editor, and lecturer known for his spellbinding oratory. At the Democratic National Convention of 1896, Bryan delivered his most famous talk, generally known as the "cross of gold" speech, in behalf of the bimetallic theory. Many of the reforms for which he worked, such as woman suffrage, the national income tax, and prohibition, became adopted reforms.

Chapter Seventeen

"counting his chickens" Scout is referring to the first half of the proverb: "Don't count your chickens before they're hatched" which means don't be too sure that something will happen before it does

"infinite capacity for calming turbulent seas" refers to Mark 4:35-41 Miracle of calming the sea. (Also Matthew 13:31-35) which states: ³⁵That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" ³⁹He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. ⁴⁰He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" ⁴¹They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him! "

"lived as guests of the county in prosperity as well as in the depths of a depression" is a reference to public assistance or welfare checks

relief checks part of Roosevelt's New Deal Program included paying farmers not to farm part of their land to help reduce the surplus of grain and thereby bring balance to the price paid for crops.

Sherlock Holmes a fictional character of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, who first appeared in publication in 1887. He is the creation of Scottish-born author and physician Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. A brilliant London-based "consulting detective",

Holmes is famous for his intellectual prowess, and is renowned for his skillful use of astute observation, deductive reasoning and inference to solve difficult cases.

Chapter Eighteen

cotton gin a machine designed by Eli Whitney that would separate the seeds from the fibers of the short-staple cotton plant, work that until that time had been done by hand.

“fought him tooth and nail” means to fight violently

Mr. Jingle Alfred Jingle is a villainous character in Charles Dickens’s *The Pickwick Papers*

“took advantage of me” in this instance means to have sexual intercourse

Chapter Nineteen

“looked daggers” means to look at someone sharply: a dagger is a type of knife

“thin-skinned” sometimes referred to as thin-skinned meaning sensitive

Chapter Twenty

“all men are created equal” the best known phrase from the *Declaration of Independence*. The idea it expresses is generally considered the foundation of the American government

“between two fires” means under physical or verbal attack from two or more sides simultaneously

Einstein (1879-1955), German-born U.S. physicist. His theory of general relativity revolutionized scientific thought and served as the theoretical foundation for later exploitation of atomic energy. He won a Nobel Prize in 1921 for his work explaining the photoelectric effect. He became a Swiss (1905) and later a U.S. citizen (1940). He joined other physicists in writing to President Franklin Roosevelt to warn him that Germany could possibly make an atomic bomb

English riding boots Traditionally, English riding boots are made of smooth leather, usually cowhide, or occasionally pigskin, and most show boots remain thus due to the classic look

J.P. court in the land refers to a precinct court of law

“not an old uncle” also called an Uncle Tom; Uncle Tom is a pejorative term for an African American who is perceived by others as behaving in a subservient manner to white American authority figures, or as seeking ingratiation with them by way of unnecessary accommodation. The term "Uncle Tom" comes from the title character of Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

Rockefeller (1839 – 1937) was an American industrialist and philanthropist. Rockefeller revolutionized the petroleum industry and defined the structure of modern philanthropy.

In 1870, he founded the Standard Oil Company and ran it until he officially retired in 1897.^[1] Standard Oil began as an Ohio partnership formed by John D. Rockefeller, his brother William Rockefeller, Henry Flagler, chemist Samuel Andrews, and a silent partner Stephen V. Harkness. Rockefeller kept his stock and as gasoline grew in importance, his wealth soared and he became the world's richest man and first American billionaire, and is often regarded as the richest person in history

“she has merely broken a rigid and time-honored code of our society” also called Anti-miscegenation laws, also known as miscegenation laws, were laws that banned interracial marriage and sometimes interracial sex between whites and members of other races

“the distaff side of the Executive branch in Washington are fond of hurling at us” the distaff side is considered the female side this is a reference to the First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt

“The most ridiculous example I can think of is that the people who run public education promote the stupid and idle along with the industrious” refers to Progressive Educational Reforms which advocated the social promotion of students

Thomas Jefferson (1743- 1826) U.S. statesman and 3rd president of the United States. He was the author of the Declaration of Independence. As Democratic Republican president (1801-1809), he strengthened the executive branch of government

Chapter Twenty-one

“chain-smoking” a term used to describe someone who smokes one cigarette after another

Chapter Twenty Two

“every one of ‘em oughta be ridin’ broomsticks” implies those being spoken of are witches

“give the lie” To give a lie to something is to prove that thing false or untrue.

runner is a chicken leg or drumstick

White House the official residence and workplace for the President of the United States

Chapter Twenty-three

“Havin’ a gun around’s an invitation to somebody to shoot you”

“he’ll go to the chair” a reference to capital punishment or death penalty by use of the electric chair

“its all adding up and one of these days we’re going to pay the bill for it” foreshadows the Civil Rights Movement which began in 1955. The NCAA began in 1905 and later

supported by Eleanor Roosevelt preferred to call in the Southern Freedom Movement. These movements later included the Black Power Movement in 1966.

hieroglyphic Characters in any system of writing in which symbols represent objects (such as tools, animals, or boats) and ideas (such as motion, time, and joy). The word comes from a Greek term meaning 'sacred carving,' which the ancient Greeks used to describe decorative characters carved on Egyptian monuments. The term is now mainly used to refer to the system of writing used by the ancient Egyptians

Moses was an early leader of the Hebrews and probably the most important figure in Judaism. He was raised in the court of the Pharaoh in Egypt, but then led the Hebrew people out of Egypt. Moses is said to have talked with God. His story is told in the Bible in the book of *Exodus*

“perhaps our forefathers were wise” is a reference to the U.S. founding fathers who wrote the *Declaration of Independence* and the *Constitution*

Popular Mechanics is an American magazine devoted to science and technology. It was first published January 11, 1902 by H. H. Windsor, and has been owned since 1958 by the Hearst Corporation.

“they were for you tooth and nail” mean to remain steadfast; for someone to show support completely and with all the strength they have

Chapter Twenty-four

“Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me” one of the most popular English hymns written by John Newton (1725-1807) who was a former slave trader before coming to Christ.

Birmingham is a city in central Alabama which hosted the 1938 Southern Conference on Human Welfare attended by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt

“blue in the face” meaning angry and upset; excited and emotional

“fighting the good fight” is a reference to missionaries around the world working to convert others to Christianity

“fighting the losing battle” to try hard to do something when there is no chance that you will succeed (usually in continuous tenses)

“It’s never entered the wool of hers” Here wool is used to refer to head. It is a derogatory reference to nappy hair

Mrs. Roosevelt (1884-1962) First Lady and wife of President Franklin D. Roosevelt who was a strong advocate for civil rights.

“Mrs. Roosevelt’s lost her mind—just plain lost her min coming down to Birmingham and tryin’ to sit with ‘em” Eleanor Roosevelt was present at the founding meeting of

the Southern Conference on Human Welfare held in Birmingham, Alabama in 1938. She defied Bull Connor's orders when she sat in the aisle rather than submit to segregated seating.

“people up there set ‘em free” refers to Northerners who were responsible for the emancipation of slaves

“some of ‘em in this town thought they were doing the right thing a while back, but all they did was stir ‘em up” refers to the creation of the integrated Southern Tenant Farmers Association in 1934

“that Stephanie’s a card” means an entertaining and clever person who says or does funny things

“the handful of people with enough humility to think, when they look at a Negro, there but for the Lord’s kindness am I” this is a reference to 2 Peter 1: 7. For a full understanding it is best to consider **2 Peter 1:2-11** ²Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; ³seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. ⁴For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. ⁵Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, ⁶and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, ⁷and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. ⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; ¹¹for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

“their time came” could be a reference to childbirth but is most likely a reference to a women’s menstrual cycle

Chapter Twenty-five

“due process of law” means as administered through courts of justice in accordance with established and sanctioned legal principles and procedures, and with safeguards for the

protection of individual rights. It is often referred to in such terms as the “law of the land” and “legal judgment of his peers

English Channel is the waterway that separates Great Britain from France.

“**miscarriages of justice**” is primarily the conviction and punishment of a person for a crime that he or she did not commit

“**scot free**” means to escape pursuers or avoid payment.

Chapter Twenty-six

Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) Nazi dictator of Germany from 1933-1945

“**Adolf Hitler has been after the Jews and he’s puttin’ ‘em in prisons and he’s taking away all their property...**” a reference to the Nazi anti-Jewish policy of first placing Jews in selected neighborhoods then finally by moving them into concentration camps and ultimately genocide

democracy is a political system in which the people of a country rule through any form of government they choose to establish. In modern democracies, supreme authority is exercised for the most part by representatives elected by popular suffrage.

dictatorship is defined as an autocratic form of government in which the government is ruled by an individual, the dictator, without hereditary ascension

Elmer Davis (1890-1958) was a journalist and CBS radio commentator who went on to head the Office of War Information

holy-roller is a member of a small religious sect that expresses devotion by shouting and moving around during worship services

“**Jews have been persecuted since the beginning of history**” refers to the plight of the Jews as told in *Exodus* where they lives in slavery in Egypt under the pharaoh’s rule until led out of captivity by Moses

Sweetly Sings the Donkey is a traditional American folksong often sound as a round. The lyrics are as follows: Sweetly sings the donkey/At the break of day,/If you do not feed him/This is what he'll say,/Hee haw, hee haw, hee haw, hee haw, hee haw

Uncle Natchell Story was a cartoon mascot for a fertilizer product called Natural Chilean Nitrate of Soda. many of the advertisements for this product were in comic strip or story form.

Chapter Twenty-seven

“**Ad Astra Per Aspera**” is Latin for “To the stars through difficulties”

“**after a fashion**” is a phrase meaning in a manner that is just barely adequate; poorly

Bob Taylor (1850-1912) Robert Love Taylor, late 19th Century orator and politician

Cotton Tom Heflin (1869-1951) J. Thomas “Cotton Tom” Heflin was an orator and Republican politician. Heflin was Secretary of State in Alabama at the beginning of the century and served in the U.S. Congress (1905-1920) and the Senate (1921-1931). Heflin’s political support was drawn chiefly from rural voters and members of the Ku Klux Klan.

dog Victrola is a reference to the advertising symbol of RCA/Victor: a dog, known as “Nipper,” looking into the horn of a gramophone or Victrola

ear trumpet is a hearing aid is an electro acoustic body worn apparatus which typically fits in or behind the wearer's **ear**, and is designed to amplify and modulate sounds for the wearer

“harbor a grudge” to continue feeling a strong resentment towards someone

Ladies Law From the Criminal Code of Alabama, Vol. III, 1907: “Any person who enters into, or goes sufficiently near to the dwelling house of another, and, in the presence or hearing of the family of the occupant thereof, or any member of his family, or any person who, in the presence or hearing of any girl or woman, uses abusive, insulting or obscene language must, on conviction, be fined not more than two hundred dollars, and may also be imprisoned in the county jail, or sentenced to hard labour for the county for not more than six months.”

New Orleans is a major U.S. port and the largest city in Louisiana

“nine old men” refers to the members of the Supreme Court

NRA or National Recovery Act was a series of programs set up to help the nation, especially the nation’s businesses, recover from the effects of the Great Depression. It was ruled as unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 1935

radical refers to a person favoring drastic political, economic, or social reforms

Syrians refers to people from Syria, a country at the northwest part of the Mediterranean region, south of Turkey

“We Do Our Part” was the motto of the National recovery Administration

WPA was the largest New Deal agency, employing millions of people and affecting almost every locality in the United States, especially rural and western mountain populations. It was created by Franklin Delano Roosevelt 's presidential order, and funded by Congress with passage of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935 on April 8, 1935

Chapter Twenty-eight

Andrew Jackson (1767 -1845 U.S. statesman and 7th president of the United States. His army defeated the British at New Orleans during the War of 1812. As Democratic president (1829-1837), he opposed the Bank of America and greatly strengthened the presidency

hock is the lower portion of a hog 's hind leg, made up of meat, fat, bone, gristle and connective tissue

“three-corner hats, confederate caps, Spanish-American War hats, and World War helmets” are all references to the headgear of various soldiers from different wars

Chapter Twenty-nine

“cats chasin’ their tails” is an expressing meaning running in circles

“go to bed with the chickens” means to go to bed early ; to go to bed at sundown-at the same time that chickens go to sleep

“loud enough to wake the dead” means to be so loud as to wake those who are "sleeping" the most soundly

“skunk with enough liquor” means to be drunk or intoxicated

Chapter Thirty

“from the bottom of my heart” means with great sincerity

“into the limelight” the limelight is an intense light thrown on stage in order to highlight an actor; thus, to be in the limelight is to be put in a prominent position before the public

“spoke sharply” means in an outspoken or harsh manner; a critical manner

Chapter Thirty-one

“I was beginning to learn his body English” is a reference to infer someone’s meaning through their body language or non-verbal communication

The Gray Ghost is a novel whose character Seckatary Hawkins is the fictional lead character of a series of children's novels authored by Robert F. Schulkers. The eleven novels were first published between 1921 and 1932, although many appeared first in serialized form in The Cincinnati Enquirer and hundreds of other newspapers around the country.