



The State v. Arthur “Boo” Radley

*Based upon the Book – To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee Info can be found at:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/To_Kill_a_Mockingbird*

A Fact Packet

It is the Year 1932. The people in the town of Maycomb, Alabama, a small town in the Deep South, are abuzz over the recent murder of Mr. Bob Ewell. Although Bob Ewell came from the wrong side of town and was known for his heavy drinking and mean spirit, his death greatly upset many members of the Maycomb community. Bob Ewell was found lying on the ground under a tree with a kitchen knife stuck up under his ribs.

It was Halloween evening and the Finch children – Jeremy Atticus Finch, known as Jem, and Jean Louise Finch, known as Scout, had just finished taking part in the annual Maycomb County Pageant. Since the evening was warmer than a typical Halloween evening, the Finch children decided to walk home from the event. As soon as they started their short journey home, Jem began to hear someone walking in the woods behind them. Although at first, they thought the stalker was a fellow student who liked to play jokes on them, they soon realized that an unknown person was following them.

Not long after they realized they were being followed, Mr. Bob Ewell jumped out from the dark and began to attack both Jem and Scout. Jem was knocked to the ground and suffered a bump on his head and a broken arm. As Dr. Reynolds later reported, Jem had a bad break in his elbow, and it looked to the doctor like somebody had tried to rip his arm off. Scout also had bumps and scratches on her arms and legs but did not have any broken bones. Just as it seemed like the stalker was about to do more harm to the Finch children, someone came out of the dark, wrestled with Bob Ewell, and ended up stabbing him with a kitchen knife.

After Maycomb’s Sheriff, Sheriff Heck Tate, was called to the scene and investigated the crime, he reluctantly arrested Arthur “Boo” Radley for the crime of murder in the second degree. Both Sheriff Tate and Dr. Reynolds knew that Bob Ewell had threatened to get revenge on Atticus Finch. They also knew that Bob Ewell was evil enough to attack Atticus Finch’s children in the dark as a way of getting

his revenge. However, the Sheriff and the Doctor knew the law. Bob Ewell was murdered. Arthur “Boo” Radley was accused of stabbing Bob Ewell with a kitchen knife to protect the Finch children from Mr. Ewell’s evil intentions. But Bob Ewell was dead and the law did not allow for any excuses for murder.

The residents of Maycomb, Alabama, took sides for the trial of *The State of Alabama v. Arthur “Boo” Radley*. Atticus Finch and his children Jem and Scout were eager to share their story with the jury on behalf of Arthur “Boo” Radley. On the other hand, joining both Dr. Reynolds and Sheriff Heck Tate was Ms. Stephanie Crawford, the town gossip who lived across the street from the Finch’s and the scene of the incident. Ms. Crawford loved to tell a good story and was ready to share what she thought about the Defendant. Stephanie Crawford, like many others in Maycomb, was afraid of Boo Radley and his seemingly unusual ways.

Now, your job is to decide if you think Arthur “Boo” Radley should be found guilty or not guilty of the crime of second-degree murder. Second-degree murder is defined as *an intentional killing that is not premeditated or planned*.

The State of Alabama v. Arthur “Boo” Radley

Court Clerk: All rise. The Court of Maycomb County is now in session.

Judge: You may be seated. Today we are going to hear the case of the State of Alabama versus Arthur “Boo” Radley. Prosecution, are you ready?

Prosecution: (*standing*) We are, Your Honor.

Judge: Is the Defense ready?

Defense: (*standing*) We are, Your Honor.

Judge: Prosecution, you may proceed with your Opening Statement.

Prosecution: May it please the Court. Your Honor and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury, we are here today to prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that Arthur Boo Radley is guilty of murder in the second degree. First, we will hear from Ms. Stephanie Crawford who will tell us what she knows first-hand about the terrible and scary Arthur Boo Radley. Then we will hear from Dr. Reynolds who will tell us that Boo Radley was not stable and had special needs. Furthermore, Dr. Reynolds will share how he arrived at the conclusion that Bob Ewell could not have died as a result of having fallen onto his knife. His research indicates that Bob Ewell was murdered. Finally, we will hear from Sheriff Heck Tate. The Sheriff will tell us that Jem Finch was already unconscious when Bob Ewell was stabbed. Thus, the only other person at the scene of the crime who was capable of stabbing Bob Ewell was Arthur Boo Radley.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the law is the law. Arthur Boo Radley broke the law and must be found guilty of second-degree murder. Thank you.

Judge: Defense, you may give your Opening Statement.

Defense: Thank you. May it please the Court. Your Honor, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury, we are here today to prove that Arthur Boo Radley is not guilty of murder in the second degree. First, we will hear from Atticus Finch who will describe how Arthur Boo Radley has been misjudged by many of the people from Maycomb County. Furthermore, Atticus will tell us that he believes that the description of what happened as told by his daughter Scout is completely based on the truth. His children do not lie. Next we will hear from Scout who will tell us how Bob Ewell broke Jem's arm, and then went after her. In addition, Scout will tell us that she knows Boo Radley to be nice, kind, and child-like, certainly not the kind of person who would commit murder. Finally, we will hear from Jem Finch. Jem will describe how Bob Ewell came out of nowhere and brutally attacked both him and Scout.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we will prove that Arthur Boo Radley is a kind individual who would never purposely hurt someone. The only thing Boo Radley could be considered guilty of is caring too much about the Finch children.

Judge: Prosecution, please call your first witness.

Prosecution: The Prosecution calls Stephanie Crawford to the stand.

Court Clerk: Ms. Crawford, please stand and raise your right hand. Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

Ms. Crawford: I do.

Court Clerk: You may be seated.

Prosecution: Would you please tell the Court what your name is?

Ms. Crawford: My name is Stephanie Crawford.

Prosecution: Where do you live?

Ms. Crawford: I live in Maycomb County, Alabama, on Laurel Street, right across from the Finch family.

Prosecution: How long have you lived there?

Ms. Crawford: My whole life.

Prosecution: What do you do?

Ms. Crawford: I am retired and spend most of my days at home working around the house. I consider myself the neighborhood security, or “town watch”. I keep my eyes on my neighbor’s houses and what is going on in the neighborhood.

Prosecution: How do you know Arthur Boo Radley?

Ms. Crawford: He is my neighbor. He is crazy.

Prosecution: What have you seen him do that would cause you to make that statement?

Ms. Crawford: I saw him stab his parents. One day, when I was performing my town watch duties and looking out the window, I saw Boo cutting paper and then all of a sudden, he stabbed his dad’s leg for no reason.

Prosecution: On the night in question – what did you see Arthur Boo Radley doing?

Ms. Crawford: I saw Boo leaving his house with something shiny.

Prosecution: How was he behaving?

Ms. Crawford: He looked crazed!!!!

Prosecution: We have no further questions for this witness.

Judge: Defense, you may cross examine the witness.

Defense: Ms. Crawford, isn't it true that you were not there at the time of the actual event?

Ms. Crawford: Yes, that is true.

Defense: It was a dark night, correct?

Ms. Crawford: Yes.

Defense: Because it was warmer than usual for Halloween, it was foggy out. And the fog made it very difficult to see anything, correct?

Ms. Crawford: Yes...that is also true.

Defense: Is it also true that you never really met Bob Ewell before?

Ms. Crawford: Yes.

Defense: And isn't it true that you created rumors about Mr. Arthur "Boo" Radley, who you also had not really met before?

Ms. Crawford: (Pause.....)

Judge: Please answer the question, Ms. Crawford.

Ms. Crawford: Yes...that is also true!

Defense: You never spoke directly to Boo Radley before, right?

Ms. Crawford: Yes, right.

Defense: But...you made sure that rumors were spread about Boo Radley across town, right?

Ms. Crawford: Yes.

Defense: No further questions, Your Honor.

Judge: Prosecution may call its next witness.

Prosecution: The prosecution calls Dr. Reynolds to the stand.

Court Clerk: Dr. Reynolds, please stand and raise your right hand. Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

Dr. Reynolds: I do.

Court Clerk: You may be seated.

Prosecution: Could you please tell the court your name and occupation.

Dr. Reynolds I am Dr. Ryan Reynolds. I am a family physician/general practitioner for the people of Maycomb County. I have been a doctor in Maycomb County for 21 years.

Prosecution: How do you know Arthur Boo Radley?

Dr. Reynolds He has been my patient since the day he was born. I regularly treat him for his mental disorder which causes him to act like a child. Arthur never mentally or emotionally developed beyond the age of 10. Arthur cannot control his emotions particularly when he becomes agitated.

Prosecution: In addition to your practice of general medicine do you not also serve as the medical examiner for Maycomb County?

Dr. Reynolds: Yes, I do.

Prosecution: In your capacity as the medical examiner for the county did you examine the body of Bob Ewell?

Dr. Reynolds: Yes.

Prosecution: After your examination of the body – what did you determine was the cause of death?

Dr. Reynolds: After an examination of Bob Ewell's body, I determined that the cause of death was deep strong stab wound to the chest area. Death was almost instantaneous. The angle of the wound indicated a sharp thrust and twist which would have required a degree of strength. The angle of the wound indicated it had been thrust upward with extreme force.

Prosecution: As a medical professional, would you say that a child has the physical strength to thrust a knife into the body of Bob Ewell with enough force to kill him?

Dr. Reynolds: No. Neither of the two children who were at the scene, Scout and Jem Finch, are strong enough to thrust the knife into Bob Ewell's body with enough force to kill him. Furthermore, both children were incapacitated at the time of Bob Ewell's death.

Prosecution: We have no further questions for this witness.

Judge: Defense, you may cross-examine the witness.

Defense: Dr. Reynolds, you described the Defendant as an adult who acts like a child, correct?

Dr. Reynolds: Yes.

Defense: You also said that a child does not have the physical strength to thrust a knife into the body of an adult like Bob Ewell with enough force to kill him, right?

Dr. Reynolds: Yes.

Defense: So, with those two statements in mind, are you certain without doubt that Arthur Boo Radley, who you described as having the mental and emotional development of a 10-year-old, could have the mental, emotional, or physical strength to kill a man?

Dr. Reynolds: Without doubt? No.

Defense: We have no further questions.

Judge: Prosecution, please call your next witness.

Prosecution: The Prosecution calls Sheriff Heck Tate to the stand.

Court Clerk: Sheriff Tate please stand and raise your right hand. Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

Sheriff Tate: I do.

Court Clerk: You may be seated

Prosecution: What is your name?

Sheriff Tate: My name is Sheriff Heck Tate.

Prosecution: What do you do for a living?

Sheriff Tate: I am the Sheriff of Maycomb County, Alabama.

Prosecution: Did you investigate the stabbing of Bob Ewell?

Sheriff Tate: Yes, I investigated the stabbing of Bob Ewell.

Prosecution: How did you investigate?

Sheriff Tate: I got a call sometime around midnight that the Finch children had been attacked. I went to the Finch home to investigate.

Prosecution: What did you find when you arrived?

Sheriff Tate: I found that Scout and Jem had been attacked. Jem was unconscious with a broken arm. Scout looked scared and disheveled. I also found Scout's costume. It was crushed and had a knife cut in it. Then I went behind the house to the oak tree to investigate further. That's when I found Bob Ewell lying on the ground with a knife in his body.

Prosecution: Did your investigation reveal details about how a knife became lodged in Mr. Ewell?

Sheriff Tate: The location of the knife revealed that Bob Ewell was stabbed.

Prosecution: What conclusion did you come to about who stabbed Bob Ewell?

Sheriff Tate: I came to the conclusion that Arthur Boo Radley killed Bob Ewell.

Prosecution: We have no further questions of this witness. The Prosecution rests.

Judge: Defense, you may cross-examine the witness.

Defense: Isn't it true that you never questioned Scout?

Sheriff Tate: Yes.

Defense: So, Sheriff Tate, you never got Scout's version of what happened?

Sheriff Tate: Correct...I never did.

Defense: Isn't it true that you did not question Jem?

Sheriff Tate: Yes...I did not question Jem either.

Defense: Isn't it true that no one told you that they saw Bob Ewell get stabbed?

Sheriff Tate: Yes.

Defense: Bob Ewell could have been stabbed by falling on his knife, right?

Sheriff Tate: I do not think so...but it is possible.

Defense: You also do not know if Bob Ewell's body had been moved?

Sheriff Tate: Correct...I don't know.

Defense: So, it is not absolutely positive that Arthur Boo Radley stabbed Bob Ewell, correct?

Sheriff Tate: Correct.

Defense: No further questions.

Judge: The witness may step down. Defense may call its first witness.

Defense: Your Honor, we call Atticus Finch to the stand.

Court Clerk: Mr. Finch please stand and raise your right hand. Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

Mr. Finch: I do.

Defense: What is your name and where do you live?

Mr. Finch: My name is Atticus Finch and I live in Maycomb County, Alabama.

Defense: What do you do for a living?

Mr. Finch: I am an attorney and spend my days here at the court.

Defense: How do you know Arthur Radley?

Mr. Finch: He has been my neighbor for many years.

Defense: What do you know about him?

Mr. Finch: I know Arthur is a modest, kind, and gentle man.

Defense: How do you know that?

Mr. Finch: Well to start, he has always been very kind to my children, giving them gifts, and helping them in their times of need. For instance, after my children were attacked, Arthur helped bring my unconscious son, Jem, safely home.

Defense: What do you think about Arthur doing that for your son?

Mr. Finch: Boo helping bring my son to safety is one of the most heroic and unselfish things I have ever witnessed.

Defense: One final question, are your children known to lie?

Mr. Finch: No, absolutely not. My children are honest kids and would never lie.

Defense: We have no further questions for this witness.

Judge: Prosecution, you may cross examine the witness.

Prosecution: Mr. Finch, isn't it true that Arthur Boo Radley spent most of his life staying in his house?

Finch: Yes, he did.

Prosecution: Isn't it also true that Boo Radley is very, very shy towards everyone?

Finch: Yes.

Prosecution: You stated that Arthur Boo Radley was a gentle, modest, kind man. However, isn't it true that Mr. Radley did have a run-in with the law?

Finch: Indeed, he did.

Prosecution: According to Dr. Reynolds, Boo Radley had the mind of a ten-year-old, correct?

Finch: Correct.

Prosecution: According to your earlier testimony, Boo Radley was only trying to save your children, is that right?

Finch: Yes, that is right.

Prosecution: Dr. Reynolds knew Boo from the time he was born, right?

Finch: Yes.

Prosecution: So, if Dr. Reynolds is correct and Boo Radley has the mind of a ten-year-old, Boo did not know why he was stabbing Bob Ewell. He just knew he had to stab him, correct?

Finch: If you put it that way, I guess, yes.

Prosecution: We have no further questions for this witness, Your Honor.

Judge: Mr. Finch, you may step down. Defense, you may call your next witness.

Defense: Your Honor, we call Jean Louise Finch (Scout) to the stand.

Court Clerk: Ms. Finch, please stand and raise your right hand. Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

Jean Louise Finch: I do.

Defense: What is your name and what do you do?

Jean Louise Finch: My name is Jean Louise Finch but people call me Scout. I am a student.

Defense: Before the night in question – had you ever encountered Arthur Boo Radley?

Jean Louise Finch: No...but my friends and I had tried to see him.

Defense: What was the relationship you had with Mr. Radley?

Jean Louise Finch: It is hard to explain. He gave us gifts mysteriously but we never thanked him.

Defense: Do you know anything about Bob Ewell?

Jean Louise Finch: I know he is a disgrace to this town. He was abusive. He was a drunk. He was violent.

Defense: Can you describe what happened the night of the incident?

Jean Louise Finch: Jem and I were leaving the Halloween Pageant. We heard steps of someone following us, but we did not know or see who it was. Then, minutes later, we were attacked by Bob Ewell. Jem did his best to protect me, but then Jem screamed. His arm was broken and he fell to the ground unconscious. The next thing I know, someone was squeezing my neck as hard as they could while I was rolling on the ground. Then everything stopped. I heard more struggling...and then there was silence. I crawled to find Jem. Then Boo Radley picked Jem up and carried him home.

Defense: We have no further questions for this witness.

Judge: Prosecution, you may cross-examine the witness.

Prosecution: Isn't it true that it was very dark that night?

Jean Louise Finch: Yes.

Prosecution: It was also very foggy that night, right?

Jean Louise Finch: Yes.

Prosecution: You never clearly saw anyone else except your brother, Jem, correct?

Jean Louise Finch: Yes.

Prosecution: You just guessed that it was Bob Ewell who was attacking you, correct?

Jean Louise Finch: Yes.

Prosecution: We have no further questions for this witness.

Judge: Ms. Finch, you may step down. Defense, you may call your next witness.

Defense: Your Honor, we call Jeremy Finch to the stand.

Court Clerk: Please stand and raise your right hand. Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

Jem Finch: I do.

Defense: What is your name and what do you do?

Jem Finch My name is Jeremy Atticus Finch, but people call me Jem. I am a student.

Defense: What is your relationship with Bob Ewell?

Jem Finch I didn't really have interaction with him in the past, but Bob Ewell has been harassing my family.

Defense: Can you describe what you mean that Bob Ewell was harassing your family?

Jem Finch: Bob Ewell threatened to get back at my father on several occasions. He actually spit in my dad's face once.

Defense: Why do you think Bob Ewell harassed your family?

Jem Finch: My father defended Tom Robinson in a trial against Bob Ewell and he exposed Bob Ewell's life to everyone!

Defense: What happened the night your arm was broken?

Jem Finch: Scout and I were walking home from the pageant and as we were walking, we were attacked by Bob Ewell. Boo Radley helped us and carried me home while I was unconscious.

Defense: We have no further questions for this witness. The Defense rests.

Judge: Prosecution may cross-examine the witness.

Prosecution: Did you kill Bob Ewell?

Jem Finch: No.

Prosecution: Isn't it true that you were unconscious when Bob Ewell was murdered due to the pain from your broken arm?

Jem Finch: Yes.

Prosecution: Did you see Scout kill Bob Ewell?

Jem: No, again, I was unconscious.

Prosecution: Isn't it true that the only person capable of killing Bob Ewell who was at the scene is Arthur Boo Radley?

Jem: (Pause...) Yes.

Prosecution: We have no further questions.

Judge: The witness may step down. Prosecution, are you ready to give your Closing Argument?

Prosecution: We are. Your Honor and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury, we heard testimony today that proves beyond a reasonable doubt that Arthur Boo Radley is guilty of murder in the second degree. Ms. Crawford told us that many in the community think Arthur Radley is crazy. Therefore, according to Ms. Crawford, lots of Maycomb residents are afraid of Arthur Radley. Also, Ms. Crawford, in her capacity as Town Watch, reported that she saw Arthur Boo Radley being violent towards his parents and, on the night in question, racing out of his family home with something shiny in his hand. Dr. Reynolds told us that Arthur had the mind of a ten-year-old who has frequent, uncontrollable temper tantrums. He also confirmed what we already know, that the Finch children are not capable of stabbing a grown man to death! Sheriff Heck Tate described the murder scene. He told us that at the time of Bob Ewell's death both Finch children were incapacitated. Sheriff Tate concluded from his

professional investigation of the crime scene that Arthur Boo Radley murdered Bob Ewell. The evidence is clear and you must convict Arthur Boo Radley of second degree murder.

Thank you.

Judge: Defense, are you ready to give your Closing Argument?

Defense: We are. Your Honor and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury, what we heard today was testimony that proves that the Defendant, Arthur Boo Radley, is not guilty of second-degree murder. Atticus Finch told us about Arthur Boo Radley, who has been Atticus's neighbor for many, many years. The Arthur Boo Radley that Atticus Finch described is a kind, modest, gentle man. Atticus told us that Mr. Radley helping carry his son Jem home was one of the most heroic and unselfish acts he had ever seen. We also heard from Jem Finch. Jem told us he never saw Bob Ewell being murdered because both he and his sister Scout were being brutally attacked by Bob Ewell. Scout Finch told us how Bob Ewell attacked her and Jem. Scout described how Bob Ewell almost strangled her to death before Mr. Radley saved her. Boo became Scout's hero.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury, what we learned today was that Arthur Boo Radley is a hero, not a murderer, and must be found not guilty.

Thank you.

Judge: Jury Instruction

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury, you are the only judges of whether the witnesses are believable. As you decide this case, you should pay attention to how the witnesses looked and acted when they were testifying, to what they said, and to whether different witnesses said things that were the opposite of one another. You should pay attention to all the evidence that shows the witness is credible, and you should pay attention to whether a witness might

have reason to say what he/she did even though it might not be the truth. You should also ask yourself whether a witness actually saw the things he/she testified to and whether he/she seems to have a good memory about what he/she saw. Finally, you should remember that two people who see something happen may see or hear it differently, and sometimes people do not remember things correctly and may make an honest mistake. When witnesses disagree with each other, you should decide whether they disagree on something important or on something that is unimportant. You should decide whether the disagreement is because one person made a mistake or because someone told a lie. The Defendant has been charged with murder in the second degree. To find the Defendant guilty of this offense, you must find that the Prosecution proved, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the Defendant committed an intentional killing that was not premeditated or planned.

The Jury may leave the Courtroom now to deliberate.