

"To do the right thing may not always be the easiest" is what we have been told since we were about 3 years old, although it sounds pretty simple it actually show a deep understanding to the human's mind and consciousness. The majority of us know what would be considered the right thing but do the opposite because we are too scared to go against the crowd. In *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee Atticus is faced with a problem exactly like this. Atticus is put to the challenge of defending an innocent black man or letting him go to someone else because it would be hard on him and his children to defend a black man. Atticus must make the right decision though, because otherwise he wouldn't be able to look his children in the eye to tell them to do the right thing if he couldn't. This very much applies to the overall story because it's about Atticus's daughter's Scout struggle with growing up in a misled society while trying to maintain her innocence and well mindedness.

Atticus's main conflict with defending Tom Robinson (the innocent black man) isn't only that it is harder on him, but it plays a hard task on both his children in that they have to hold back and listen to people say bad things about their father, and didn't understand why he is doing this. Atticus just clearly made it clear that it was something he had to do, and when the children responded by asking if he would win, Atticus would tell the truth and say "no." This only confused Scout more at the time. We on the other hand know that he is only following his word because earlier he stated, "I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand. It's when you know you're licked before you begin but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what." (149) To Atticus it was clear to be a good role-model for Scout he had to do this and help her understand racism, which he was able to do in the end while still preserving her innocence by being that great role-model and by talking to her about it.

Therefore, Atticus' dilemma ended in helping Scout stay innocent which was a key concept to the novel overall.