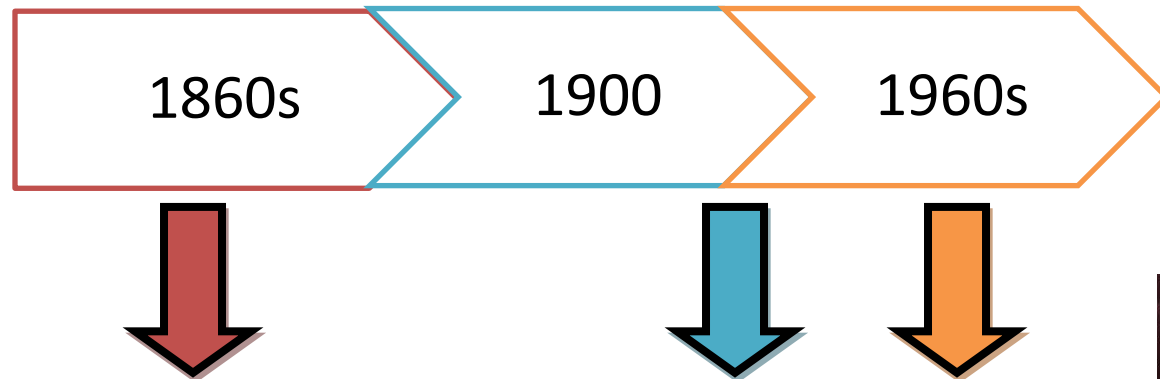
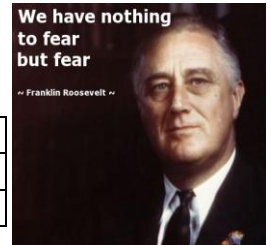


Notes for Reading TKAM Chp. 1
 Timeline of Civil Rights (incomplete, but this is our focus area)



1860ish	1900	1930s	1960ish
President: Abe Lincoln		President: FDR	President: JFK
Ended Slavery	"Separate but 'equal'"		MLK, Rosa Parks, etc.



How we know the setting of our novel: In Chp. 1, Scout tells us, "Maycomb County had recently been told that it had nothing to fear but fear itself." This is a famous line from FDR's first inaugural address.

Read the first line of the novel:

"When he was nearly thirteen, my brother Jem got his arm badly broken at the elbow."

Chp. 1, second paragraph:

"When enough years had gone by to enable us to look back on them, we sometimes discussed the events leading up to his accident. I maintain that the EWELLS started it all, but Jem, who was four years my senior, said it started long before that. He said it began the summer DILL came to us, when DILL first gave us the idea of making BOO RADLEY come out." (emphasis mine)

This means the novel will answer the question: How did Jem break his arm?

And we need to really focus on three (groups of) people: the Ewells, Dill and Boo Radley.

Any time these people come up, PAY ATTENTION!!!
So we have a few areas to focus on: Civil Rights, Ewells, Dill, and Boo Radley.

Pg. 3: Important facts:

1. Atticus is Scout and Jem's father.
2. They have a black woman for a cook, Calpurnia.
3. **Their mother is dead.**
4. **When Jem was almost 10 and Scout was 6, they meet DILL and the intro to BOO RADLEY.**
(This also means our book will be an account of about three years: "When he was nearly thirteen, my brother Jem got his arm badly broken at the elbow." Then the first chapter starts when Jem is 10.)

1, 2 "We lived on the main residential street in town—Atticus, Jem and I, plus Calpurnia our cook. Jem and I found our father satisfactory: he played with us, read to us, and treated us with courteous detachment.

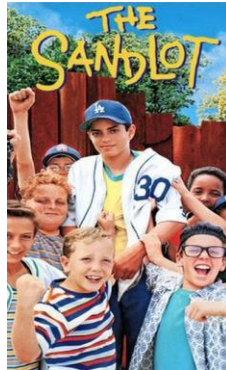
Calpurnia was something else again. She was all angles and bones; she was nearsighted; she squinted; her hand was wide as a bed slat and twice as hard. She was always ordering me out of the kitchen, asking me why I couldn't behave as well as Jem when she knew he was older, and calling me home when I wasn't ready to come. Our battles were epic and one-sided. Calpurnia always won, mainly because Atticus always took her side. She had been with us ever since Jem was born, and I had felt her tyrannical presence as long as I could remember."

3 "Our mother died when I was two, so I never felt her absence. . ."

4 "That was the summer Dill came to us..." (Read end of page 3-5 * Important!)

Last two lines of this section: “The Maycomb school grounds adjoined the back of the Radley lot; from the Radley chicken yard tall pecan trees shook their fruit into the schoolyard, but the nuts lay untouched by the children: Radley pecans would kill you. A baseball hit into the Radley yard was a lost ball and no questions asked.”

This reminds us of:



Fun, Friends, Shenanigans
“Coming of Age” Stories

As a point of comparison, consider the “Beast” in *The Sandlot* and compare that to the description of Boo Radley.

“Jem gave us a reasonable description of Boo: Boo was about six-and-a-half feet tall, judging from his tracks; he dined on raw squirrels and any cats he could catch, that’s why his hands were bloodstained—if you ate an animal ran across his face; what teeth he had were yellow and rotten; his eyes popped, and he drooled most of the time.”



“THE SANDLOT”

What we skipped about the Radleys that you need to know:

1. They don’t come out of their house hardly at all
2. They don’t follow the social “guidelines” other folks follow
3. They seem to be very mean!
4. “Boo,” or Arthur, the youngest, got in trouble in his teens
5. His father locked him away in the house for over fifteen years until he stabbed his own father in the leg with scissors at 33! Whoa.
6. Then Mr. Radley died (not from the scissor wound) and his elder son comes to live there and is “the same way” as his father.

Jem said if Dill wanted to get himself killed, all he had to do was go up and knock on the front door.

“I hope you’ve got it through your head that he’ll kill us each and every one, Dill Harris,” said Jem, when we joined him. “Don’t blame me when he gouges your eyes out. You started it, remember.”

“You’re still scared,” murmured Dill patiently.

Shenanigans of Jem, Scout and Dill:

1. Their plays, or “dramas,” are typical pretend games. They play and give each other parts. For example, Kid A tells Kid B “Play like I told you to jump up and down.” {Kid B jumps up and down} etc.
2. Dill dares Jem to go into the Radley yard. (They are trying to get Boo to come out so they can see if he really is an axe murderer, because, come on, this is what kids do.)
3. It takes Jem 3 days and a lot of teasing before he runs up to the house, slaps it, and then all three kids run back to the Finch House, breathless, swearing they saw a shutter move.