

Example product for Center Six: Play it Again, Sam.

Music Album Proposal for *To Kill a Mockingbird*

1. "Lean on Me" sang by Bill Withers

The lyrics of this song evoke a sense of friendship, loyalty, and encouragement. In *TKAM*, Atticus Finch proves himself to be a friend and trusted neighbor to those around him. In the beginning of the novel, Scout relates that Atticus allows Mr. Cunningham to pay for legal services with walnuts and other agricultural goods. Atticus continually comforts and uplifts his children, especially Scout, and fosters open communication in his family. Throughout the novel, Atticus violates the mores of the traditional southern town in order to defend a black man who is accused of raping a white woman; in doing so, Atticus puts himself (and his family) in danger. However, he doesn't back down when Tom Robinson needs him—he is a true friend who is always ready to help those in need. It wouldn't seem unreasonable to hear Atticus saying, in his low, southern drawl, "Lean on me, when you're not strong, and I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on— For it won't be long Till I'm gonna need somebody to lean on."

2. "Farther Find Me Now" sang by The Coal Men

Though a very modern song, these lyrics speak of pushing forward through hard times when you're not really sure who you are. In *TKAM*, the protagonist (Scout) struggles with coming of age in a time of hate and prejudice. She often resorts to violence when confronted with adversity, but is determined to use her innocence to educate the adults who just don't seem to understand. The confusion she faces growing up immersed in a foreboding and often unforgiving adult world is echoed in these lyrics: "They will push you and rush you on down the line, You best keep movin' hoping someone will find where you are, who you were, where we going, please tell me sir..."

3. "What Do You Say?" sang by Reba McEntire

Throughout *TKAM*, the adults find themselves faced with explaining confusing situations to young children. Atticus often tries to explain to Scout why the townspeople are so outraged when he decides to defend Tom Robinson. In the song "What Do You Say," the verses display situations in which there seems to be nothing to say but silence. Words seem inept for what needs to be communicated: "So what do you say in a moment like this? When you can't find the words to tell it like it is. Just bite your tongue and let your heart lead the way. Let's get out

of here. Oh, what do you say?" More than once Atticus finds himself pausing, searching for the right words to help his daughter understand the situations threatening to engulf the family.

4. "Because You Loved Me" sang by Celine Dion

Scout always seems to reflect on her father with love and admiration. She recounts how he often surprised her and Jem with his knowledge of masculine activities, such as shooting, and describes how the townspeople react in respect and awe of him. Scout credits Atticus with teaching her the true values of life, of setting a positive example for his children. At the end of the book, Scout recalls sitting in Atticus's lap watching Jem sleep, and remembers how Atticus sat up all night with his son. The song "Because You Loved Me" serves as a memorial for anyone who has shown care and compassion in a way that has had a lasting impact on the lives of others, and certainly fits very well with Scout's attitude toward her father: "You were my strength when I was weak, you were my voice when I couldn't speak. You were my eyes when I couldn't see, you saw the best there was in me. Lifted me up when I couldn't reach, you gave me faith 'cause you believed. I'm everything I am because you loved me."