

Individually, people can be decent and kind; however, in a mob, people can be judgmental and cruel. In the classic by Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, several mob scenes portray the cruelty carried in numbers, but also exhibits that that any one person within that mob can have the strength to overcome the crowd and have the will to speak out. In two specific mobs, one of the Cunninghams proves to have the scruples to say what they believe deeply believe is right.

The first mob situation occurred just outside of the city jailhouse. Here, the drunken group came with the intent of seizing and killing the accused felon. The crowd discarded individual convictions, and affiliated themselves with society's "band-wagon." Yet within this oblivious hoard, one man had the audacity to prevent the attempted murder- Mr. Cunningham. It took a few small but significant words from Scout to convert Cunninghams's way of thinking to a more normal fashion. "Let's clear out" was all it took form Cunningham to remove the men, and go home.

Similarly in the courtroom, another moral dilemma arose: this time within the jury.

Once more, a group of twelve men came with an intent of charging Tom Robinson guilty. No where did it say the bias jury initially had a guilty verdict in mind, but with the attitude towards blacks in Maycomb County, Lee made it bluntly obvious that they had no intention of pronouncing Tom innocent. In the book Atticus made it very clear, "In our courts, when it's a white man's word against a black man's, the white man always wins." Just as in the horde outside the jailhouse, another member of the Cunningham family played the outsider of this group. Atticus later referred to the unnamed Cunningham, "You might like to know that there was one fellow who took considerable wearing down-in the beginning he was rarin' for an outright acquittal." Even though this Cunningham was not able to hold his ground, he held his position for over two hours while arguing with his peers. It was a courageous act all in itself.

Lee may have tried to express society's views threw the use of the mobs. Each mob contained men of different occupations, classes, and life-styles; but, were bonded with a common trait- hatred.

Humans are not born hating each other; therefor, they have to learn it in life. The men in the mobs inherited this trait from their environment in Maycomb. Some of them were able to realize the naivete involved in hatred. With the bonds shared inside the community, a person may have felt reserved in asserting his or her ideas. This is most likely why Mr. Cunningham initially joined

the mob, and why the other Cunningham gave in to the others in the jury. Anybody can be a scrupulous and gentle person, but when a person becomes part of a collective is when their convictions come to the test.