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Two different literary works - the novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee and the play "Macbeth" by William Shakespeare are both recognized to be classics. Both of them have different settings and in each context has another level of importance. This results in the possibility of or impossibility of moving their historical setting successfully to another time (as it has been done numerous times with Shakespeare's plays in theatre). Yet in both of these works setting and context, as it is with any other work most probably, have at least some irreplaceable role.

The setting of the action that happens in a literary work gives a specific environment and contributes to the atmosphere of it thus giving an adequate framework for the ideas which the work must express to the reader. In "Macbeth" this setting is 11th century Britain and Scotland specifically. It creates an atmosphere of turmoil as the nation lacks order in the medieval period ~~was~~ later referred to as the 'dark ages'.

This is contrasted by the setting of "To Kill a Mockingbird" - Southern USA during the Great Depression with an atmosphere of almost excess order as the society lives in a strict class system based on conservative ideals. This can be seen in both the main event of the novel - the trial of a black man wrongly accused, and also the conflict of genders. The narrator of the novel Scout is a tomboy ~~or tomboy~~ as a result of living in a male environment. Her brother Jem ~~is~~ even accuses her of behaving like a member of her own sex: "Scout,



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I'm telling you for the last time, shut your trap or go home. I declare to the Lord, you're becoming more like a girl every day." She is then pressured into behaving like a boy and joining their activity. The gender conflict is also present ~~in~~ in the fact that women are not allowed to be part of the jury or the trial. The dominant role of men in society is also present in "Macbeth". Although, Lady Macbeth is a very strong, independent female character, she puts all of her effort in persuading Macbeth to kill Duncan and ~~was~~ herself ~~comes~~ of supernatural spirits: "unsex me here and fill me up from crown to toe top-full in direst cruelty".

In "Macbeth" monarchy and ambition for attaining the crown is the central factor of the play. The country is almost in a state of anarchy as the conflicts of the play are resolved. In "To Kill a Mockingbird" there is no anarchy present, the society works under strict rules. If in "Macbeth", the problem was the lack of order, then in this novel it is too much order and corrupt conservative values which create it.

"Macbeth" is based on a legend. It also borrows its main motives from Ancient Greek tales of hubris, the loss of reason through excess arrogance and desire for power. Still, some elements in the play were inserted because of Shakespeare's situation whereby he had to favour the current monarch at the time of the play's release - King James. Characters like the three witches and Hecate and the overall ~~in~~ ~~no~~ large role of mysticism, fate and the supernatural were inserted into the play partly because of the



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king's personal interest in this subject. The play, even though a legend about the origin of the Stuart dynasty (from which the king was from), - the character Banquo in the play was predicted by the witches for that his descendants would be rulers in Britain. Thus the play conveys the message that James is the rightful king as fate has intended. "Macbeth" also makes no openly critical statements about kingship and monarchy and promotes simply the idea that the crown should pass to its rightful owner within the royal family.

The ~~set~~ social setting in which a work is released ~~although~~ also is important in both of these works. In the case of "Macbeth" the audience for which the play was written was predominantly Christian. The play ~~is~~ displays the opposition of sin against virtue, as Macbeth and his wife are sinners eventually led to their downfall. "Macbeth" is not a classical tragedy ~~as~~ because in Christian tradition there must always be a ray of hope after the gruesome death of the main character in this case in the ~~person~~ person of the new ~~more~~ rightful king Malcolm.

"To Kill a Mockingbird" exemplifies a perfect fit between the setting of the novel's content and its release. In 1960 when it was released the Civil Rights movement was a major force in changing and improving US society. The same conflict that was depicted between Atticus and Maycomb in the novel was being played out between the society of the 1960s and the pressure of its past. Atticus the protagonist of "To Kill a Mockingbird" ~~is~~ and his



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struggle to provide justice for Tom Robinson personified the efforts of social activist groups to reform the ruling attitudes within society and change them for the better. This relationship between both settings no doubt was responsible for the success of "*To Kill a Mockingbird*" and the prizes (e.g. Pulitzer), it garnered shortly after.

Both of these ~~best~~ literary works focus on important, basic elements of human existence. "*To Kill a Mockingbird*" is about the struggle to improve and better the world. "*Macbeth*" is about the consequences of irresponsible, selfish actions. While "*Macbeth*" may be written as a more universal narrative, fitting multiple times and settings, "*To Kill a Mockingbird*" is ~~stronger~~ will last simply for its historical role. It can be concluded that both of these works are of literary merit regardless of their setting.



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