

Most individuals in every society tend to be exposed to different kinds of discrimination against things such as race and religion. No matter where you go in the world, you will always be judged. But there are only a few groups which get harshly discriminated against. A modern example of a racist group would be the Ku Klux Klan or Neo Nazis. They follow the ways of Adolf Hitler; obviously the outcome of hate from these groups is going to be damaging. I will use four different texts to show how different people are treated.

Different individuals which get introduced to societies, which mainly consist of one dominant racial or religious group, can be discriminated against for being different, 'To Kill A Mockingbird' and 'The Merchant Of Venice' both show people from different racial and religious groups being discriminated against. Tom Robinson, a local black man, is looking for justice as he has been accused of rape even though the victim's father was the one who fatally injured her. Tom Robinson's lawyer fights for Tom's freedom but knows deep down that they will never win in court because of the racism which exists in Maycomb County. Reverend Sykes reveals this racism when he says to the lawyer's children, 'I've never seen a jury decide in favour of a black man over a white man.' The racism is immediately taken into account and Tom Robinson is charged for rape. Tom cannot overcome the fear of prison so he runs but gets shot and dies. This for Tom was a chance of freedom. By dying he was able to break all bonds tied with the discrimination which was forced against him during his short life (1). Shylock in the 'Merchant of Venice' is also of a different religious group (Jewish) which has been introduced to a society which only consists of mainly one religious group (Christian). Shylock has been mocked for being a Jew by the Christians and wants revenge. The Christian Antonio and Shylock the Jew made a bond in case Antonio wouldn't pay back the three thousand ducats. This bond was that if Antonio did not pay back the loan of three thousand ducats Shylock would want a pound of Antonio's flesh in repayment of his debt. Shylock hates Christians as he has been discriminated by them for being a Jew for most of his life so he takes this opportunity to get revenge on the Christians. In the courtrooms Shylock attempts to get justice by arguing that Jews shouldn't be judged more harshly than Christians because most Christians in that time thought of Jews as being impure (2). He finally gets his way but the judge says that if he is to spill one drop of blood he would be arrested for attempted murder. Shylock's daughter who is a Jew gets married to Lorenzo who is Christian, Shylock see this as a betrayal by his daughter which adds fuel to his desire for revenge against the Christians. By marrying Lorenzo, Jessica is mocking Shylock and Jews by marrying and being converted to the religion he hates. Shylock is humiliated. . Shylock loses his bond and his three thousand ducats. In both cases Tom Robinson and Shylock have been racially or religiously discriminated against and neither of them receives justice because of this (3). It is true that during the times these texts were based in were times where racism was widely encouraged but it still shows how uncivilized societies can be. These texts show us how people from a long time ago were treated now and how bad it can get but these texts also suggest that the people of a different race or religion keep fighting for their rights just as much as people from a different race or religion would.

Characters react differently to other individuals because they seem to be different. The Fly and 'The Unknown Citizen' both show how characters react to difference in individuals in both positive and negative ways. The Boss from 'The Fly seems to start off as a normal hardworking man. But as soon as Old Woodfield leaves The Boss immediately goes into a mental breakdown mourning for his son. His son died six years ago and he hadn't thought of him once and so he is regretting that decision. He felt so sad about his son that he wanted to cry but just couldn't. That's when he saw a fly drop into his inkpot. The Boss picked it up with his pen and dropped it onto some paper. So the Boss dropped some more ink on the fly and watched it clean the ink off of its wings. The Boss thought "He's a plucky little devil" He felt a real admiration for the fly's courage. "That was the way to tackle things; that was the right spirit. Never say die." The boss dropped one last blot of ink on the fly and it lay still. The fly was dead. The Boss thought that his son would have fought honourably and courageously and he wanted the fly to reflect those feelings. So The Boss dropped the ink on the fly and watched it fight to the very end. That's how

the boss would have remembered his son. The Boss did not think of it as a fly but thought of it as his son which is the reflection the boss wanted to see (4). The unknown citizen is also treated differently even though he seems to be a conformist. The government of this society had the Bureau of Statistics make a report on him to see what was so great about this person. Everything was perfect which seemed to be good to be true. He followed all the laws and actions his government would want him to do but even so he seemed unusually committed to the government's rule. The government did nothing to encourage this citizen yet "for everything he did he served the Greater Community." And so a marble monument was erected for this citizen so he could be remembered and be an encouragement for future generations. The government treated a conformist, a normal citizen much differently compared to every other citizen in that society. But this was a positive treatment, the government seemed to have treated him like a hero even though he did nothing but conform (5). I believe that this citizen was a prime example of what a citizen should be like. "When there was peace, he was for peace: when there was war, he went." He served the 'Greater Community' and that's what made the unknown citizen different (6). These two texts show two examples of positive and negative types of treatment and this reveals that even though you seem to be different you will not necessarily be treated negatively. Depending on your actions, people will judge you and your actions are what will lead you to a miserable life.

The actions the society takes, as a whole, towards different individuals is brutal and unforgiving. 'To Kill A Mockingbird' and 'The Merchant Of Venice' both show two different people getting harsh reactions from certain individuals who hate these people for being a different race and religion than themselves. Tom Robinson from 'To Kill A Mockingbird' is a local black man from Maycomb County and is an example of how other characters react when seeing him. Atticus and Miss Maudie say to the children "I'd rather you shoot at tin cans, in the backyard, but I know you'll go after birds. Shoot all the blue jays you want, if you can hit them, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird." "Mockingbirds don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us that's why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird." I believe that Atticus and Miss Maudie are reflecting on the fact that Tom, a black man did nothing wrong, he did not rape Mayella Ewell who is white and still he was blamed for it, tried to escape and was shot Tom Robinson was a mockingbird other characters reactions are harsh. If they could get rid of someone who seemed to be impure to them. This society succeeded in doing so. To these other characters the death of a black man would have been a joy but for a character like Atticus it would have been a heartbreaker as he felt like he had failed Tom and had cost him his life (7). Shylock in 'The Merchant Of Venice' was treated harshly by other characters because he was a Jew. Christians saw him as impure and mocked him for it. An example of Shylock being mocked is when the character Salanio says "Which is the way to master Jews" and "...the dog Jew." This shows that these Christians saw themselves as more pure and more civilized than Jews (8). In this text it has been said that Shylock was intended to be a villain trying to kill Antonio but a different assumption could be made where Shylock is actually a victim to all of this discrimination and hardship. These two texts show us that when there is only one person of different religion or race the other characters dominate them and try to humiliate and oppress these people even though they have done nothing wrong. The dominant group try to get rid of these minorities as they think they are seen as so different.

It is clear from my connections that difference in individuals reveals to us how other people act and more importantly how society will act. Based on your actions society will judge you positively or negatively and either way it will shape the rest of your life however wonderful or miserable it will be.....(paragraph concludes with brief summary)