*What are Significant Sections?*

SIGNIFICANT SECTIONS

***Example:*  “.. but they were Havefords, in Maycomb County a name synonymous with [jerk].” (Harper Lee, p 5 of To Kill a Mockingbird) –** This is very symbolic of how Maycomb works, as every family name has a specific personality associated with it. In the eyes of townspeople, no one really has their own identity, but rather people belong to a family name which has an inherent set of traits. In this case, well, there is a clear statement about the association that “Haverford” has for Scout, and seemingly for many others. This later connects to Atticus, Scout and Jem being criticized for being too accepting, as this is the trait they have been branded with by most of the town. It symbolizes the narrow perspective many of the townspeople possess, because if their views were open, generalities like “a name synonymous with” would not be occurring.

***How Long of a Section Should I Choose?***

For his assignment, I would like you to choose a section which is between 5 sentences and 2 paragraphs.

Ask yourself: What are the key sections of a texts? Which parts seem more important to you than others?

The best advice is to look for areas that seem to ‘jump out’ of a text. Often when you think back on something you’ve been reading, the section which comes into your mind first is one which has had a strong impact on you.

As well, there is not a single ‘magic answer’ to explain WHY a section is significant. You might find something significant, while the person next to you does not find it so. This is normal. **Use your own insight and judgement.**

To help you sort out what could be significant, here is a list of ways that a section is significant; now decide where YOU see these aspects in the text.

***Personal Reasons***

* **related** to an experience you/someone you know had
* **wording** which captured your attention
* **enjoyed the idea** which this section communicated

***Artistic Reasons***

* creating **mood** *(what is the mood?)*
* revealing **tone** *(what is the tone?)*
* providing **expository information** *(providing relevant information, setting, relationships among characters)*
* establishing **point of view**
* **creating, developing, or resolving** conflict
* **foreshadowing** coming events or behaviours
* **motivating** a character *(what drives a character, what makes them do what they do)*
* **developing character** *(indirect development- how others describe the character’s physical attributes / personality; direct development- words, actions and thoughts of the character.)*
* revealing **change in character**
* creating **irony**
* developing **imagery**
* serving as a **symbol**
* illustrating or articulating **theme**