**False Judgments**

“The blue pill or the red pill?” said Morpheus in the movie *The Matrix*. Morpheus gives the protagonist, Neo, a chance to see what the world without false judgments is by taking the red pill, or take the blue pill and live in the world as we see it today structured around false judgments. In the historical fiction book, *To Kill a Mockingbird,* by Harper Lee, two children come of age in a community based on false judgments. Through the mentorship of their father Atticus, the protagonists, Jem and Scout, they are able to see why false judgment is placed on others. Through the lessons of Mr. Raymond, Mayella Ewell, and the Roly-Poly, Harper Lee endeavors to teach a lesson on false judgments and their consequences. That lesson being that false judgments hold mankind back from being truly free from deception in this world.

False Judgments. It connotation can vary from person to person, but Harper Lee uses the word Ghost to describe those who are so falsely judged and can’t live the life they want. In Mr. Raymond’s case he went against the communities oral codes and married a black woman. Because Mr. Raymond, went against the community, people falsely judged him as a drunk and could never make right decisions so now he has to live this lie of a life, but we know he isn’t a drunk. In lies where he states, “You little folks won’t tell on me, will you?” he shows Dill and Scout that he is not a drunk (267). However, he does not want Dill and Scout to share it with the community because then the community will see he actually defied the oral codes instead of being a drunk and not making decisions. Now that Mr. Raymond is viewed as a ghost by the community, he becomes a vital mentor for the protagonists, Jem and Scout. Mr. Raymond shares with Jem and Scout what type of life he wanted. His reasoning for exposing this is described in this line “you’re children so you can understand” (268). They can understand because their minds have not yet been altered so they don’t falsely judge Mr. Raymond as a drunk, but rather, as man who choose to sticks to what he believes. Mr. Raymond is a man who went against oral codes, and now is a slave to the judgments of the community and can’t be truly free.

Alongside with Mr. Raymond’s situation a woman named Mayella Ewell went through the same persecution of loving a black person. Mayella Ewell never wanted to be isolated. As stated by scout, “Mayella Ewell must be loneliest person in world, lonelier then Boo Radley who had never talked to a person in twenty years” (256).Society saw her, as a worthless person in the community because she went against the community’s oral code by tempting a black man. So she tried to hide it by convincing the community that the black man, Tom Robinson, raped her and tried to alter the community’s false judgment on her and turn it onto Tom Robinson. This blaming of false judgment lead to a trial, that made Mayella Ewell become a ghost to the society as if “ she was like a mixed child: white people wouldn’t have anything to do with because they lived amongst the pigs; Negros wouldn’t do anything cause she was white” (256). Because Mayella wanted to live a life with the company of a black man, she was falsely judged and compared to a mixed child… worthless to either side of society and now has to live her days as a ghost completely blocked from society. Mayella Ewell was a girl who wanted to live a life, but because of society’s judgments she was shut out, and now is a person she can’t escape. Mayella is now a ghost in the community.

“A senseless slaughter of an inanest creature,” (323). A Roly-Poly walks across the steps “kill it” Scout shouts (323). A small creature, but once they’re in the house, Scout has a false judgment on the Roly-Poly because society has altered his mind into thinking it’s a pest and that it should die. But the only thing the Roly-Poly did was live his life. Roly-poly when threatened hides itself in a ball. Just like the Roly-Poly the community hides itself from being falsely judged by people by living false lives. When the Roly-Poly feels it is safe he uncurls himself from the ball and continues on his way. But those in the community who broke free of that ball, are those who live the lives they wanted just like Mayella, and Mr. Raymond, the community though keeps poking them just like Jem, and poking the Roly-Poly makes them curl back up. False judgments surround us every were we go. It is up to the people to say as a community mankind must uncurl themselves from a ball, and live in a world free of judgment.

Judgments aren’t something seen, but yet they hold people back from being who they want to be. For example, judgments can be as powerful as someone getting up and putting on an outfit they like. But then they take it off, because of society’s judgment. The person took off their clothes because they knew that if they would wear that, the person would be falsely judged before people got to know them. We don’t want to be like Mr. Raymond and Mayella who through lies attempted to break society’s judgment, yet they weren’t like the Roly-Poly. They stayed in the figurative ball, never uncurling themselves to break free from hiding. So if society could not judge someone, and break society’s oral codes, then mankind would feel free to live the life they wanted.