THE GREAT DEPRESSION IN
TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD
When Americans elected Herbert Hoover President in 1928, the mood of the general public was one of optimism and confidence in the United States economy. Most people believed that national prosperity would continue indefinitely. In his acceptance speech for the Republican party nomination for the presidency, Hoover had said:

"We in America today are nearer to the final triumph over poverty than ever before in the history of any land. The poorhouse is vanishing from among us."
The Stock Market Crash of 1929

- October 29, 1929
  - Black Tuesday
  - Loss of $30 Billion
    - More money than was spent to fight World War I disappeared from the American economy.
  - Many people lost all their money in the market.
  - The crash was not the cause of the depression, overproduction was the cause.
After the crash most people were optimistic in 1930 when national income dropped from $87 billion to $75 billion. People sang, “Happy Days are Here Again.”

In 1931 people sang “I’ve Got Five Dollars” when the national income dropped to $59 billion.

In 1932 the song was “Brother Can You Spare a Dime” when the national income dropped to $42 billion.
Economic Statistics

1929
- National Income: $81 Billion
- Unemployment: 4 million/ 3.2%
- Average Yearly Wage: $2,300
- Stock Price of RCA: $101 per share

1932
- National Income: $41 Billion
- Unemployment: 12 million/ 23.6%
- Average Yearly Wage: $1,600
- Stock Price of RCA: $2.50
The Depression

Herbert Hoover coined the term Depression for the economic downturn moving away from the old term panic.

The Great Depression affected every industrialized nation in the world.

Hoover believed that private enterprise and faith in the self-regulating economy would pull us out of the Depression, but things only got worse.

With the economy in free fall the people were ready for a change, any change.
Franklin Roosevelt

Stricken with polio in 1921, could not walk without braces and canes.

Governor of New York

Roosevelt won 42 of the 48 states in a landslide win.
Eleanor Roosevelt

- The President’s eyes and ears outside the Whitehouse
- She traveled extensively to attend political rallies, tour factories, and visit coal mines.
- Roosevelt would say at cabinet meetings, “My missus says that people are working for wages well below the minimum in town she visited last week.”
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

I am writing to you for some of your old soiled dresses if you have any. As I am a poor girl who has to stay out of school. On account of dresses & slips and a coat. I am in the seventh grade but I have to stay out of school because I have no books or clothes to wear. I am in need of dresses & slips and a coat very bad. If you have any soiled clothes that you don't want to wear I would be very glad to get them. But please do not let the newspaper reporters get hold of this in any way and I will keep it from getting out here so there will be no one else to get hold of it. But do not let my name get out in the paper. I am thirteen years old.

Yours Truly,

Miss L. H.

Gravette, Ark.

c/o A. H.
STANTONVILLE TENN
DEAR MRS. PRESIDENT
I AM A LITTLE GIRL 5 YEARS OLD I HAVE A LITTLE BROTHER HE CALLS ME SISTIE I CALL HIM BUZZIE. AFTER YOUR LITTLE GRAND CHILDREN. I WISH I HAD A SHIRLEY TEMPLE DOLL. DADY CANT NOT BUY ONE
I LOVE YOU
P. A. C.
Mason, Wisconsin
January 9, 1934

Dear Mrs. F. Roosevelt,

I suppose you'll be kind of surprised to hear from a poor little girl. I am ten years old. On Christmas, I had wished for Santa Clause to come, but my mama said the chimney was blocked and he couldn't come, so I had a poor Christmas. I was expecting Santa to bring me some things.

I lost my daddy when I was two years old.

I have read in the papers how good you are to the poor and thought maybe you can help me some.

To-day we have started school from our Christmas vacation & all the children talk about how many presents Santa has brought them & I felt so bad cause I had none.

Yours truly,
M. A.
Black Codes: Racial Segregation

- Black Codes were used to keep African Americans in their place and were denied the following rights:
  - Vote
  - An education
  - Testify against whites
  - Handle weapons
  - Serve on juries
Living on the Wrong Side of the Tracks
Colored Section of Town
Conclusion

- People in the depression made do with what they had.
- Often went without.
- Often worked less hours.
- Most people lived quite normal lives.