**SETTING QUOTES:**

Divide the following quotes up into themes they help show: Discrimination / Gender / Social Status

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *“I assume you know how to clean” 73* | *“They hate you cause they think you is white trash” 316* | *“No one ever talks about it. No one ever talks about anything down here” 106* |
| *“The tears roll down. It's all them white peoples that breaks me, standing around the colored neighborhood. White peoples with guns, pointed at colored peoples. Cause who gone protect our peoples? Ain't no colored policeman.* | *“I feel so stupid. Thinking I could just walk in and get a job as a journalist” 73* | *“She has live in help. Everyday, every hour. I hardly had to see Mae Mobley at all” 147* |
| *“You know coloured folks aint allowed in that library” 154* | *"Use the white bathroom at Pinchman Lawn and Garden. Say they wasn't no sign up saying so. Two white men chase him and beat him. […] He up at the hospital. I heard he blind” 101* | *“There was a sit-in at the white library a few years ago…the police department simply stepped back and turned the German Shepherds loose” 154* |
| *“I’m pregnant…” “It’s about time”* |  | *“Aibee, you’re my real mama” 284* |
| *“For days and days Jackson, Mississippi is like a pot a boiling water…” 196* | *“They are not like regular people” 364* | *“In April Carl Roberts told Washington reporters what it means to be a black man in Mississippi…Robert’s was found cattle-branded and hung from a pecan tree. They’d killed Carl Robert’s for speaking out, for talking…How stupid I’d been” 239* |
| *“I read through four of the twenty-five pages, mesmerized by how many laws exist to separate us…we all know about these laws. We live here, but we don’t talk about them. This is the first time I’ve seen them written down” 173* | *“Medgar Ever’s like a celebrity around here…KKK shot him. Front a his house. A hour ago…police know who did it but they ain’t telling nobody his name” 194* | *…“Mississippi and the word is two different places” the Deacon say and we all nod cause ain’t it the truth…294* |
| *“His daddy would take him to the garage and whip him with a rubber hose-pipe, trying to beat the girl out a that boy…I wish to God I’d told John Dudley he ain’t goin to hell. That he ain’t no sideshow freak cause he like boys” 285* | *“She just don’t see em. The lines. Not between me and her, not between her and Hilly” 311* | *There is undisguised hate for white women, there is inexplicable love…The dichotomy of love and disdain living side by side is what surprises me” 257* |
| *“Such a pity, the members seem to be thinking, that you girls don’t have the gentility to join out club” 333* | *“Martin Luther King stand in our nation’s capital and tell us he’s got a dream…I can’t believe how many peoples is there – two hundred and fifty thousand. And the ringer is sixty thousand a them is white*…*September come and a church in Birmingham blows up into a million pieces, with four little coloured girls inside” 294* | *“Bosoms are for bedrooms and breastfeeding. Not for occasions with Dignity…I want her to cover. Them. Up” 322* |
| *Isn’t that what you women from Ole Miss major in? Professional husband hunting? 118* | *So Jackson's just one white neighbourhood after the next and more springing up down the road. But the colored part of town, we one big anthill, surrounded by state land that ain't for sale. As our numbers get bigger, we can't spread out. Our part of town just gets thicker. (2.4)* | *“Four years my daughter goes off to college and what does she come home with…a pretty piece of paper” 55* |

**SETTING: The Help**

The Help – is set in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jackson, Mississippi during the civil rights movement. It is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ society, still firmly stuck in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [era](http://www.shmoop.com/jim-crow/" \o "Jim Crow era). There are strict rules, laws, and norms restricting the lives of the black townspeople. These rules also restrict white people who want to cross the color line.

Writers of historical fiction work to make the past more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. In The Help we are given glimpses into the secret lives of the white and black families of Jackson in the early 1960s. By diving into perspectives not frequently explored in popular literature, Stockett widens our perspective on the American historical past and encourages readers to look around their own communities with new \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Setting helps us as readers understand not only our past but also the actions of the characters in the text, the prejudices they might have and their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Through understanding the setting of a novel and its characters it offers readers the ability to be exposed to events of the past which teach important \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION**

Kathryn Stockett's novel unflinchingly explores the worst of the false \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about black people – that they are lazy, dirty, carry diseases, and are in general less intelligent and less valuable than whites. She shows how these beliefs get passed from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to generation, perpetuating the cycle of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and discrimination. It shows a deep mistrust of whites on the part of the black community, who have been betrayed by them again and again. It also shows how powerful and how \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it can be to challenge the stereotypes and dissolve the lines that are meant to separate people from each other on the basis of skin color.

The novel shows that segregation doesn't just mean that black and white people must live apart. It means that they can only interact in certain situations (mostly in which black people are serving white people in some capacity) and there are strict rules and norms about how they can act toward each other. Because black people were considered \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by most whites, and by the law, they were only allowed access to inferior living conditions, products, and services. And because the jobs and educational opportunities for black people were few it was extremely difficult to break out of this environment. Segregation negatively impacts every aspect of the lives of the black characters.

Many \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ events are woven seamlessly into the novel, for example the assassination of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . It reflects the very real dangers posed to those who spoke out in favour for integration and civil rights. The death of Evers also helps show the differences in the way the black and white communities of Jackson perceived current events. For the black community, Evers's death is a major historical event. For the white community, it's not something to even be discussed. This gives reader’s an insight into how \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and restrictive Jackson really was and contrasts the town with other more progressive communities where white people were heavily involved in civil rights activism – for example the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

**SOCIETY AND CLASS**

In Stockett's Jackson, Mississippi, race determines who has access to educational, occupational, and economic opportunity. The novel also shows how complicated employee-employer relationships become, especially those between the black women and the white children they care for. The novel also reflects the strict social structure which existed at this point in time. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was determined either by wealth or family background and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was paramount. Although the divisions had no legal foundation, it was difficult for people to move between classes or make their way into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ social circles. Any act of rebellion could mean social \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and absolute isolation in the community. This could have far reaching consequences especially in terms of employment or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ prospects.

**GENDER**

The Help looks at rules and norms governing gender in a Mississippi town in the early 1960s. White women are valued in society by their ability to produce \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who are then to be cared for by black women. Few jobs are available for women of both races. Black women are expected to be passive workhorses, and to sacrifice their own homes and family lives for those of their white employers. The novel shows how this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ society proscribes certain rules for men and certain rules for women. White women, like Elizabeth and Hilly, are expected to not work – neither in nor out of their homes. White women are simply tasked with being involved in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and supervising "the help.” College for Jackson's white women is more of a place to find a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than a place to get a good education. Skeeter is even considered a failure at college because she didn't find a husband, unlike Hilly and Elizabeth who drop out as soon as they find their not-so-charming princes. Through writing and storytelling, Skeeter, Aibileen, and Minny all dare to challenge the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ society sets up from them and receive greater \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the process.



ignorance historical Status eyes husband exclusion transparent stereotypes close-minded Jim Crow generation children Medgar Evers reputation 1960s

dysfunctional Segregated marriage moral lessons elite

dangerous fulfilment gender roles social events Inferior

March on Washington motives