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Intolerance

Mahatma Gandhi once said, “Intolerance is itself a form of violence and an obstacle to the growth of a true democratic spirit.” Harper Lee’s epic novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* illustrates the intolerance of a small, southern town in the 1930’s. Intolerance is a topic of the past, or is it? Even now in 2018 the world is ensconced with intolerance. The daily the news headlines scream of never-ending intolerance. Even our schools are filled with intolerance; children bullying others for a variety of reasons. Bullying being most commonly defined by Dan Olweus, a Norwegian psychology professor as one being “exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons, and he or she has difficulty defending himself or herself.” (Modifica 1). Bullying is the 21st century version of the intolerance seen in the 1930’s.

There are endless stories of children being bullied by their peers. Once such example is Josh, an eleven-year-old sixth grader.

What is being done about the bullying in schools? For Josh, it meant a transfer to another school.

Harper Lee vividly describes the intolerance in the small town of Maycomb, “ .” (Lee ).

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