The most important theme of *To Kill a Mockingbird* is the book’s exploration of the moral nature of human beings—that is, whether people are essentially good or essentially evil.

Scout and Jem develop throughout the book from a perspective of childhood innocence to a more adult perspective, in which they have confronted evil and must incorporate it into their understanding of the world.

Atticus understands that most people have both good and bad qualities. The important thing is to appreciate the good qualities and understand the bad qualities by treating others with sympathy and trying to see life from their perspective.

The novel demonstrates that a sympathetic and understanding approach is the best way to teach lessons. In this way, Atticus’s ability to put himself in his children’s shoes makes him an excellent teacher, while Miss Caroline’s rigid commitment to the educational techniques that she learned in college makes her ineffective and even dangerous

Over and over again, To Kill a Mockingbird reveals prejudice not just as closed-minded and dangerous, but also as ridiculous

To Kill a Mockingbird condemns standardized school education, showing how it emphasizes rote facts and policies designed to create conformist children rather than promote creative critical thinking and mutual understanding