

3 Why does Scout think Mayella is the "lonliest" person in the world?

While being questioned by the judge, Mayella was questioned about her friends, but she claimed she didn't have any. She went to school for about 3 years, but with her family's reputation and her stubbornness, I'm sure it wouldn't be the easiest thing for her to make friends. Not only did she have no friends, but she had no mother either, so she was truly alone apart from her 7 other younger siblings. Her father was there for her sometimes, but he spent most of his day working in the forest, and most of his time at home drinking. Mayella didn't have a job, so she wasted her time all day at home, and paying Tom Robinson to come in and do tasks for her everytime he walked by, which was odd. "She reached up and kissed me 'side of th' face. She says she never kissed a grown man befor 'an she might as well kiss a nigger". (pg. 260) Not only did Mayella seem lonely, she seemed so desperate, as in to take advantage of a black man for all the attention she had never received before. Mayella forced everything upon herself because she was "lonely", and because of that she created a lie for more attention and pity, and basically caused the only person who had ever been truly nice to her, pain and suffering. Mayella's story of her loneliness was important to the jury and Atticus because it helped prove if she was lying or guilty.