Mad Dog in Maycomb
Tim Johnson killed by Atticus Finch
By: Ms. Driscoll

Maycomb’s streets are safe again after “One-Shot Finch” shoots a rabid dog.
Sheriff Heck Tate and Atticus Finch responded to a call from the Finches’ housekeeper, that there was a mad dog on the loose. Arriving together, Finch and Tate recognized Tim Johnson, Harry Johnson’s dog, weaving down the street in front of the Radley home. At Sheriff Tate’s urging, Atticus Finch took the kill shot, ending the crisis.

Jeremy Finch was the first to sight Tim Robinson as he was coming down the street. He told the reporter, “I could see right away that something was wrong with the dog. I made my sister come home with me to tell Calpurnia.” Jean Louise “Scout” Finch confirmed her brother’s story: “I thought Jem was being silly, there ain’t supposed to be no mad dogs in February.” After the sighting, the two children hurried to their home where they told their housekeeper, Calpurnia, what they had seen.

Calpurnia recognized the dog was indeed rabid when she saw him, “I thought them children were fooling me, but when I seen that dog, I got them children in the house right fast and called Mr. Finch.” Calpurnia’s quick responses potentially saved many people. After she called Mr. Finch, she had the phone operator, Miss Kelsey May, alert everyone on the street about the mad dog, advising them to stay in their homes. Calpurnia even risked her own life to alert the Radleys, who had no phone, by running to their house to warn them.

Sheriff Heck Tate and Atticus Finch arrived at the Finch house moments after Calpurnia had warned the neighbors. Sheriff Tate recognized the dog was rabid right
away: “When he (the dog) walked into view, he couldn’t even walk straight. That dog was still in the ‘twitching phase’. Mr. Finch and I knew we had to kill Tim Johnson fast, before he started running.” Sheriff Tate, realizing they had to kill Tim in one shot, asked Atticus Finch to do the shooting. This is no surprise to many who know of Atticus Finch’s shooting skills. Ol’ One Shot Finch stopped Tim Johnson in his tracks, much to the rejoicing of the town. Ms. Maudie reported that, “Atticus shot that dog just as he was about to start running. Tim Johnson started going rigid when Atticus’s bullet stopped him in his tracks. Even though he doesn’t hunt anymore, Atticus still hasn’t lost his skill.” Mr. Finch stated that he was sure anyone would have done what he did, and modestly waved off any comments about his remarkable shooting ability.

Tim Johnson’s body was picked up and disposed of by the town garbage collector, Zeebo, who will properly dispose of the body. Sheriff Tate will inform Harry Johnson about his dog when he returns from Mobile, where he has been doing business. Residents of Maycomb are cautioned to be watchful for any other signs of rabies in both their pets and the local wildlife.