



Candidates must complete this page and then give this cover and their final version of the extended essay to their supervisor.

Candidate session number

Candidate name

School number

School name

Examination session (May or November)

Diploma Programme subject in which this extended essay is registered: ENGLISH B

(For an extended essay in the area of languages, state the language and whether it is group 1 or group 2.)

Title of the extended essay: PORTRAYAL OF THE SOCIAL  
SITUATION OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN "THE HELP"

Clear title (not RQ) but the category should also be included- in this case category 3.

### Candidate's declaration

*This declaration must be signed by the candidate; otherwise a grade may not be issued.*

The extended essay I am submitting is my own work (apart from guidance allowed by the International Baccalaureate).

I have acknowledged each use of the words, graphics or ideas of another person, whether written, oral or visual.

I am aware that the word limit for all extended essays is 4000 words and that examiners are not required to read beyond this limit.

This is the final version of my extended essay.

Candidate's signature:

## Supervisor's report and declaration

*The supervisor must complete this report, sign the declaration and then give the final version of the extended essay, with this cover attached, to the Diploma Programme coordinator.*

Name of supervisor (CAPITAL letters) \_\_\_\_\_

*Please comment, as appropriate, on the candidate's performance, the context in which the candidate undertook the research for the extended essay, any difficulties encountered and how these were overcome (see page 13 of the extended essay guide). The concluding interview (viva voce) may provide useful information. These comments can help the examiner award a level for criterion K (holistic judgment). Do not comment on any adverse personal circumstances that may have affected the candidate. If the amount of time spent with the candidate was zero, you must explain this, in particular how it was then possible to authenticate the essay as the candidate's own work. You may attach an additional sheet if there is insufficient space here.*

No comment from the supervisor. It will be entirely left to the examiner to determine to what extent the student has been engaged in the process. This could affect criterion K. The comment should in part be based on the viva voce.

*This declaration must be signed by the supervisor; otherwise a grade may not be issued.*

I have read the final version of the extended essay that will be submitted to the examiner.

To the best of my knowledge, the extended essay is the authentic work of the candidate.

I spent  hours with the candidate discussing the progress of the extended essay.

appropriate support

**Assessment form (for examiner use only)**

Criteria	Achievement level					
	Examiner 1	maximum	Examiner 2	maximum	Examiner 3	
A research question	2	2		2		
B introduction	2	2		2		
C investigation	3	4		4		
D knowledge and understanding	2	4		4		
E reasoned argument	3	4		4		
F analysis and evaluation	2	4		4		
G use of subject language	2	4		4		
H conclusion	2	2		2		
I formal presentation	3	4		4		
J abstract	2	2		2		
K holistic judgment	3	4		4		
Total out of 36	26					



## Student advisory exemplar – English B exemplar B

Criteria	Maximum mark	Descriptor level achieved	Comments
A Research question	2	2	The RQ is stated clearly and is appropriate generally despite using fiction to reflect social conditions.
B Introduction	2	2	The introduction gives some historical context and worth.
C Investigation	4	3	There is evidence that the primary sources have been used appropriately- and the essay has been planned.
D Knowledge and understanding	4	2	There is basic knowledge and understanding of the conditions present in the society of the time.
E Reasoned argument	4	3	There is a discernible argument but some weaknesses in terms of persuasion and logic.
F Analysis and evaluation	4	2	There is some analysis, but a bit too much reliance on descriptive narration rather than effective analysis.
G Use of subject language	4	2	The essay communicates for the most part but lapses in the language are evident.
H Conclusion	2	2	The conclusion is adequate and the ideas are consistent with what has come before.
I Formal Presentation	4	3	The required formal elements are present and the overall layout is consistent and references are adequately accounted for.
J Abstract	2	2	All 3 required elements are clearly present
K Holistic judgment	4	3	There is enthusiasm and seriousness of purpose shown in the essay. Without a supervisor comment, this is perhaps a generous mark.
<b>Total</b>		<b>26/36</b>	
<b>Summative comment</b>		<p>Not a terribly strong essay that has earned marks by meeting the basic requirements. The depth of knowledge is adequate, and there is some understanding of the realities of low social status. Perhaps 26 is a bit generous especially considering the superficial analysis we see, but the essay overall has a good point to make and gives a number of examples, though they are not always well sequenced, that show poor treatment of the maids and illustrates their reactions. The social context is well understood.</p>	

**CANDIDATE NUMBER****EXTENDED ESSAY****SUBJECT**

English B

**TOPIC**

PORTRAYAL OF THE SOCIAL SITUATION OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN "THE HELP"

**RESEARCH QUESTION**

✓ To what extent were African Americans treated unfavorably in the United States of America in the 1960s on the basis of the work "The Help"?

**SUPERVISOR'S NAME****SUPERVISOR'S SIGNATURE****NUMBER OF WORDS**

3987

**CANDIDATE'S NAME**

The RQ is clear, but is framed as if the novel were history- It is a historical novel, but it is important to treat it as a work of fiction that might reflect US attitudes in some ways. It should not, however, be used as if it were pure history.

good length- close to the word limit.

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*oh*

Not much detail,  
but adequate.

# Abstract

The essay examines the question: To what extent were African Americans treated unfavorably in the United States of America in the 1960s on the basis of the work "The Help"? The essay was based on the evaluation of the book "The Help", as well as its movie adaptation. The introduction begins with the background information about the situation of the African Americans in the USA in the 1960s in Mississippi, and in what follows, the reader familiarized with the main theme and setting of "The Help". At the end of the introduction the motivation and aims of the essay are stated.

RQ

Year published?

RQ stated clearly.

The essay then continues with the analysis of relations of chosen characters. First three analyzed characters are black maids, and their experience and relations with the employer are investigated. These characters were chosen to analysis because of their different approach toward White people, subsequently their relations are examined in terms of the research question. The fourth character which is analyzed is Skeeter, who is writing a book about their experiences and her approach is in contrast to approach of other White people. In the last chapter, affiliations of miscellaneous characters are shown to give the full view of an essay and to show other perspectives.

score

Some sense of method or approach is given here.

By the end of the essay, the conclusion states that the African Americans were treated unfavorably and discriminated to the great extent, nevertheless, there were shown many good examples of relations between the White people and the African Americans.

word

A conclusion is put forward and is clearly stated. It is not very definitive, but the quality is not an issue for the award of marks for the Abstract, only the clarity.

# Introduction

1960s in the United States of America were a time of deep social reforms, which were triggered by Martin Luther King - the black activist, who fought for equal civil rights for the African Americans. The literary work "*The Help*<sup>1</sup>" is focusing on the life of black maids, whose life changed because of showing their personal perspective. It is the debut novel of American writer Kathryn Stockett, published in 2009, which adaptation was brought in 2011. The action begins in 1962, ending in late 1964.

Not entirely clear about the connection between MLK and maids.

In Mississippi African Americans did not conduct any important functions, working as gardeners, taxi drivers, maids and cooks. They had their distinct clothes shops, separate laws, districts they live in, as well as hospitals and schools. The scale of segregation was enormous, surprisingly the laws which should protect African Americans, in fact limited them. Furthermore, actions such as Home Health Sanitation Initiative, which assumed separate bathrooms for African Americans, had been introduced. This policy derived from the popular belief that black employees carry other than White people, dangerous diseases. Moreover it was justified by "separate but equal" doctrine, which justified and permitted racial segregation. ✓

Attempt to set the historical social context.

In "*The Help*" the thread of Movements for civil rights led by Martin Luther King is arising in the background, nevertheless plays a very important role in the lives of African American employees, as they watch his speeches solemnly and with intent.

---

<sup>1</sup> Kathryn Stockett, *The Help* (New York: Penguin Books, 2009)



"*The Help*" mostly portrays the life of the black maids: Minnie and Aibileen and the process of writing a book about their perspective by young, educated woman - Skeeter. Minnie is a vigorous, chubby woman, who has a sharp tongue and temperament, she is also known as the best cook in Mississippi. Aibileen is her best friend and plays the role of the narrator. Narration is in a form of read book, which Aibileen wrote to tell story of her life and also to pay tribute to her son, who died in a car accident.

Some confusion about the narration.

The popular belief stating that all black people were treated badly prevails nowadays, therefore, only few examples of good relations between African Americans and White people are shown in the literary works or in the movies. This essay will focus on bad, but also good relations between the African Americans and the White people. The research question is: To what extent were African Americans treated unfavorably in

the United States of America in the 1960s on the basis of the work "*The Help*"? Such a topic is worthy of investigation and was chosen to present two different sides of relations with African Americans. This essay will base on the book and movie adaptation of "*The Help*", because it shows the lives of African Americans from another perspective, not only historical, but also emotional and it shows their daily lives.

RQ stated relatively clearly

This is possible but complicates the argument if using both book and movie.

There are a number of errors noted thus far though they do not interfere with meaning overall.

There is a context given and the topic is generally clear. There is also an attempt to assign some significance to the topic. Not a strong introduction, but just enough to get the marks by meeting the basic requirements.

# Aibileen

Aibileen works from 8am till 4pm, six days a week and earns 182\$ a month – 95cents per hour. Her duties are housework, grocery shopping, but mostly she takes care of the “baby girl” – Mae Mobley. She works at Miss Leefolt, who is a childish lady, who focuses only on social life and parties. Aibileen’s relations with Miss Leefolt are quite good, but under the pressure of society her employer acts differently.

source for this info?

How so? This section is a bit vague.

Aibileen is perceived and treated by two-years-old Mae as her “real mama”, for the reason she is too young to be affected by the racist attitude; she is more affectionate to her than her mother. Aibileen worries about her future, and as Mae is rejected by her mother, she tries to inculcate her self-esteem and moral values by saying to her: “You is kind, you is smart, you is important<sup>2</sup>.” Aibileen despises Elizabeth saying: “Miss Leefolt should not be having babies<sup>3</sup>”, justifying it by saying that babies should not be having babies. This attitude eventuates from the fact that Miss Leefolt prefers parties and social interactions over taking care and loving her daughter, but subconsciously, she is jealous of the relation between her maid and daughter.

Pronoun reference here is not clear.

*Context unclear*

The context is unclear and there seems to be a number of ideas put together. Clarity is an issue.

Aibileen raised 17 children of the White people, not having enough time for her own.

She feels guilty because of that, but she loved every child that she raised, although she knew that after some time she would be unnecessary. She even remembers the full name of the child that she was taking care of when she was 14. Aibileen’s son died in

<sup>2</sup> Stockett, *The Help*, 451.

<sup>3</sup> *The Help*, Directed by Taylor Tate, (New York: Buena Vista, 2011), DVD

Why wouldn't she?

There is a mix of the book and the film version being used as sources for information. These are different genre and may have a different emphasis, thus it could present problems unless the film closely follows the novel. This is not indicated anywhere in the essay.

an accident with the truck, and she blames white people for the accident, and the system in which he could not go to the nearest hospital, but to the hospital only for black people, which had much lower standards and possibilities:

✓ “They killed my son. He fell carrying two-by-fours at the mill. Truck run over him, crushed his lung. That white foreman threw his body on back of a truck. Drove to the colored hospital, dumped him there and honked the horn. There was nothing they could do, so I brought my baby home<sup>4</sup>.”

← good support to show social status and prejudice.

She still suffers because of death of her son and is aggrieved by the indifference of the White people to the situation of African Americans: “Three years ago today, Treelore died. But by Miss Leefolt’s book it’s still floor-cleaning day<sup>5</sup>.”

The employer of Aibileen – Elizabeth, talks with superiority to her in the presence of other people. When the employer asked about her new dress, Aibileen is not honest with her, saying it is beautiful with the fake smile, because Aibileen was taught and expected to say what the employer wants to hear. When Skeeter asks about talking to Aibileen, her employer inquires: “my Aibileen?” afraid of that someone can take time of her “property”, stressing that Skitter has her own help. When the employer is speaking about separate toilets for the blacks, or about other racist segregation topics, Aibileen is just sent to the child to not hear that. Her employer is indignant of the fact that Aibileen could use her bathroom, as it would be something inappropriate. Elizabeth is surprised by Skeeter’s attitude towards Aibileen, as she considers it awkward to be familiar with the help. When she came into the room Skeeter spoke more formally, with no emotions not to be suspected of excessive familiarizing with Aibileen.

reference ?

*descriptive*

<sup>4</sup> *The Help*, Directed by Taylor Tate, (New York: Buena Vista, 2011), DVD

<sup>5</sup> Stockett, *The Help*,, 100.

The section is rather descriptive. Though centered on Aibileen, the examples of how she is treated are rather randomly organized.

Aibileen was accused of stealing Elizabeth's silver forks, because her friend - Hilly wanted to take revenge on her. She said: "Maybe I can't send you to jail for what you wrote, but I can send you for being a thief<sup>6</sup>." Elizabeth trusted Aibileen and believed that she could not do that, but simultaneously she did not defend her and did not dissuade Hilly from calling the police. After Elizabeth was commanded to call the police Aibileen said to her: "All you do is scare and lie to try to get what you want. You a godless woman. Ain't you tired, Miss Hilly? Ain't you tired?"<sup>7</sup> After these words Hilly run out of the room and Elizabeth knowing that she is innocent, fires her in order to prevent her going to the jail.

Again, the context of these comments is missing for the reader.

*Context missing*

Was Aibileen treated unfavorably by her employer? The treatment of her employer depended on the situation. In personal relations Elizabeth addressed Aibileen rather in a polite way. However, she addressed her more strictly in the presence of her friends, not to be perceived as weak. However, Elizabeth's daughter treated her as mother and was not affected by the racist attitude of the society.

This was not shown

There is some knowledge of the work evident and at least an attempt to give some textual support.

<sup>6</sup> *The Help*, Directed by Taylor Tate, (New York: Buena Vista, 2011), DVD.

<sup>7</sup> *The Help*, Directed by Taylor Tate, (New York: Buena Vista, 2011), DVD

# Minnie

For each of these sections on the characters, it would be quite helpful to have a controlling idea stated in the early part to aid the coherence of the argument.

Minnie has 5 children and the husband, by whom she is beaten at home. Her biggest passion is cooking: "Frying chicken is just... tend to make you feel better about life."<sup>8</sup> Minnie is considered the best cook in Mississippi and it is her biggest advantage on the labor market. Firstly, she worked for Hilly Holbrook, who mistreated her and had a scornful attitude towards her. After being fired for not obeying the orders, she worked at Celia Foote, who was not prejudiced and treated her as a friend.

plot-like

Minnie approaches Skeeter very carefully, even rudely at the beginning, not trusting in her sincere intentions. That ensues from the fact Minnie did not have much personal experience with white people before and she learnt not to trust them, as she saw many instances, where black people were accused of committing crimes they had not committed. She says hypocritically to the Skeeter about her life:

✓ "Well, it's a real Fourth of July picnic. It's what we dream of doing all weekend long. Get back into they house, polish the silver. And we just love not making minimum wage or getting Social Security. And how we love they children when they little. And then they turn out just like they mamas."<sup>9</sup>

interesting quote - how does this section support the RQ?

Minnie is disconcerted with the fact that law is working only in one way, providing white people with privileges and limiting African Americans. She detorts: "What law's gonna say you gotta be nice to your maid?" The relations between Skeeter and Minnie meliorated, when Minnie became convinced that there is no hidden reason why Skeeter is amiable towards her. By the time they had very good connection and became friends.

<sup>8</sup> Stockett, *The Help*, 181.

<sup>9</sup> *The Help*, Directed by Taylor Tate, (New York: Buena Vista, 2011), DVD

Hilly – Minnie’s employer gives only orders, with unpleasant tone and gesticulation.

Give an example from the text

While talking to her she does not even look in her direction. She forbade her to use home toilet, commanding to use the outhouse. To check if Minnie follows the rules she puts dots on toilet paper. Minnie knowing that brings her own paper roll. Despite that fact Minnie has an access to television and has decent working conditions.

During the tornado Minnie wanted to use house toilet, simultaneously knowing Miss Hilly restrained that. Hypocritically Hilly said that tornado was only a little rain and commanded to use the outside toilet. However, Minnie decided to illegally use the bathroom. When her employer found out about that, she started to insult and shout at her. Minnie annoyed of the whole situation, not using toilet flushed the water, to show Hilly that she had the right to use the toilet. After that incident Minnie, who worked for Hilly’s mother for many years, was fired, moreover, the official reason of the dismissal was stealing the candelabra. Afterwards, Minnie had huge difficulties in finding another job, as she had an opinion of the thief. Hilly mother’s indifference against this situation implies that injustice towards the help was a common incident, and interfering into that was not accepted.

Again, a rather random choice of experience without much context

Celia Foote was the Minnie’s next employer – only she did not believe the gossips that she was stealing. Celia originated from a country family and did not have prejudices and behavior of “white ladies” of Jackson. Moreover, it was her first time having a maid. She welcomes Minnie with happiness, giving her coca-cola and recounting about her life. Minnie, who was always taught to distance herself from the employer, is

Plot driver

OK

Relying on retelling bits but not really connecting them.

confused and does not know how she should behave. Surprisingly, at the beginning, she wants to establish clear rules and boundaries which shall be followed. The first reaction to Celia friendliness was Minnie's suspicion that she does not have clear intentions. What is more, following scenes are filled with paradox, when Minnie is explaining why she is not supposed to eat with her, or imposing on herself less favorable conditions of the job agreement, than Celia wants. Minnie was afraid that this type of connection could be negatively perceived by people. Over time she becomes familiar with the style of behavior of her employer and instructs her how to cook. Celia, as a new girl in town, did not have any friends till meeting with her. On the other hand, for Minnie it was the first white person, who treats her as a friend, not only as subordinate. Celia really appreciates Minnie's help: "I just want you to know I'm really grateful you're here<sup>10</sup>." But Minnie answered: "You gots plenty more to be grateful for than me<sup>11</sup>." That shows the nature of their relations at the beginning, when Minnie wanted to distance herself, knowing that she should not be familiar with a white person. Celia also takes care of her, giving her strength and advice, when she was beaten by her husband: "I know you didn't fall in no tub, Minnie. You know what I'd do if I were you? I'd give it right back to him. I'd hit him over the head with a skillet, and I'd tell him: Go straight to hell<sup>12</sup>!" In contrast, Minnie was a friend that Celia needed, after she miscarried her child. Her husband said to Minnie: "The minute you started working here, she started getting better. So you saved her life."<sup>13</sup>

Interesting reaction- analyze this reaction in the context of the RQ

Why not?

There is some knowledge of the text shown, but the argument is not well organized and lacks sufficient analysis to give it more coherence.

no real argument

<sup>10</sup> Stockett, *The Help*, 314.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> Stockett, *The Help*, 353.

<sup>13</sup> *The Help*, Directed by Taylor Tate, (New York: Buena Vista, 2011), DVD

Minnie's relations with Hilly were very strained, as she had sharp temperament and had to abstain from sassing. On the other hand, Hilly treated her as a "property" and did not even try to be polite towards her, therefore, she was treated unfavorably by her. However, her second employer – Celia, acts differently than any other boss she had. After experiences with previous jobs and attitude, Minnie was afraid of getting friendly relationship with Celia. This example is in contrast to any other relations between a black maid and an employer, as it is based on the friendship.

There is a contrast in the way Minnie was treated but this is not then clearly connected to the RQ or even the other sections/characters.



OK  
some sense  
of difference  
in treatment



## Constantine

Constantine was the Skeeter's maid and they had a huge bonding. She taught Skeeter not to go under the pressure of the society and to follow her heart. She had very good relations with the employer she worked for and was perceived as one of the member of the family.

In the novel the difference in behavior towards African Americans, which changed according to the situation, is noticeable. The employers act differently towards them, when they are among white elite, being more strict and imperious. Miss Phelan, the employer was socially forced to fire Constantine, who worked at their house for 29 years. The reason of dismissal was that Constantine's daughter arrived and wanted to welcome her mother. As Miss Phelan had official dinner with Daughters of America, she addressed her in an impolite, rude way. When Constantine's daughter entered the room without the permission to say hello to her mother, she was commanded to go to the kitchen, both by Miss Phelan and Constantine, but president of Daughters of America regarded that as unacceptable intrusion. Miss Phelan said with imperious tone that the maid and her daughter shall get out, satisfying president and not be considered as weak towards the help. Later she regretted it and accounted for herself: "She didn't give me a choice. The Daughters of America had just appointed me state regent<sup>14</sup>." Despite this situation Constantine was treated as a member of a family, having advisory function and raising Miss Phelan's daughter – Skeeter. Skeeter always admired her and perceived her nanny as an authority. When leaving Constantine cried

explain - this is more or less just summary

Show an example

on show

context is not clear

<sup>14</sup> Stockett, *The Help*, 355.

– that shows how much she was affected with this family. At the end of the novel Miss Phelan, who had the strong connection with Constantine and her daughter, says that she lacked of courage to stand up against the president and pressure of the elite.

Constantine was treated very well and was appreciated for her work. After firing her to satisfy the president of the Daughters of America, Miss Phelan looked for her to take care of her and reestablish her in the home. Miss Phelan felt obligatory to take care of her in her elderly years, as she knew how much Constantine done to her family.

Quite a short section and little connection to the RQ except to summarize.

# Skeeter

Skitter, as a teen, had a strong connection with Constantine, who raised, loved and always listened to her, which her mother could not express well. Constantine was Skeeter's trustee, friend and mother at the same time. In a conversation about being independent and self-confident Constantine asked:

"Am I gonna believe all them bad things them fools say about me today? All right? As for your mama, she didn't pick her life. It picked her. But you... ..you're gonna do something big with yours. You wait and see<sup>15</sup>."

The point is not clear.

Constantine raised Skeeter giving her right moral values; therefore Skeeter treats people equally, regardless of the race. Only Skeeter does not find awkward speaking casually to black people, addressing them in the normal, not modified tone. She is also annoyed with the current situation of racial segregation, likewise she has the willingness to change that:

Any evidence?

"I'd like to write something from the point of view of the help. These colored women raise white children, and in 20 years, those children become the boss. We love them and they love us, but they can't even use the toilets in our houses. Don't you find that ironic, Miss Stein? Margaret Mitchell glorified the mammy figure, who dedicates her whole life to a white family, but nobody ever asked Mammy how she felt about it. 'Cause nobody ever really talks about it down here."

This seems to be an essential quote yet it gets no analysis.

Skeeter's boyfriend split up with her after he had found out that she had been committed to writing a book which was controversial due to the fact it presented the perspective of maids. His argument was that: "Things are fine around here. Why go stir up trouble?<sup>16</sup>" And Skeeter replied: "Trouble's already here, Stuart<sup>17</sup>." We can deduce

<sup>15</sup> Stockett, *The Help*, 251.

<sup>16</sup> Stockett, *The Help*, 257.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

that the social acceptance of racial hatred was a common phenomenon, as long as it did not bother white people.

Skeeter had empathy towards black people, understanding their situation. It results from exceptional upbringing by the Constantine, but also from her perspectives – as she has a college degree, which was rare among “white ladies”. She apologizes Aibileen for her friends, who often mention racist topics in her presence. Skeeter, who experienced love and was taught right moral values by Constantine, was very sensitive to the suffering of the others.



A handwritten signature, likely belonging to the author or reviewer, located at the bottom right of the page.

## Miscellaneous characters

This section may have come earlier to help set the social context - placing it here doesn't seem to have any real purpose.

The portrayed attitudes of public authorities in Jackson, the capital of Mississippi, such as policemen are unfavorable, as the scene shows the brutal policemen, who firmly hold the black woman accused of stealing in an uncomfortably position, nearly treating her as a serious criminal and beating her with the baton. The whistle-blower – Hilly, observed this situation with her young son, having a satisfactory facial expression. ?

Another situation presents a policeman, who orders black people to leave the bus due to the fact that black civil rights activist Medgar Evers was shot. He informed about the assassination by saying: “some Nigger got shot”. In addition, black people were left alone and not protected contrary to the white people, who were driven home. ✓

The members of the Ku Klux Klan, who committed the murder are constantly endangering the black society by threats, arsons, and assassinations. Moreover, they restricted the blacks from voting by menacing them - Aibileen said: “They set my cousin Shinelle's car on fire, just 'cause she went down to the voting station.”

reference? Why is this important?

The scale of intimidation could be shown by the following quotation:

“KKK shot him (Medgar Evers). An hour ago. Right in front of his children, Aibileen. We living in hell. Trapped. Our kids, trapped. What they gonna do if they catch us with Miss Skeeter? Hitch us to a pickup? Drag us behind? Shoot me in front of my children?<sup>18</sup>” ✓  
shift

On the other hand in the novel are shown some positive relations, described by maids: elderly woman around 65 years old, in an interview with Skeeter said:

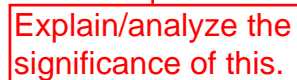
“I used to take a shortcut every day when I went to work at Dr Dixon's house. Cut through that farmer's lower 40 to get there. One day this farmer was waiting for me

<sup>18</sup> Stockett, *The Help*, 178.

with a gun. Said he'd shoot me dead if I walked on his land again. Dr Dixon went and paid that farmer double for two of those acres. Told him he was gonna start farming, too. But he bought that just for me, so I could get to work easy. He did.<sup>19</sup>”

The help, in the minds of some white people are kind of the property, which they take with themselves when moving or save in the heritage. The help moves with the owner, staying with him till being fired. If the maid resigns, she has difficulties in finding another job. About 50-year-old lady said in the interview with the Skeeter:

“I worked for Miss Jolene's mother till the day she died. Then her daughter, Miss Nancy, asked me to come and work for her. Miss Nancy is a real sweet lady. But Miss Jolene's ma done put it in her will I got to work for Miss Jolene. Miss Jolene's a mean woman. Mean for sport. Lord, I tried to find another job. But in everybody's mind the French family and Miss Jolene owned me. Owned me.<sup>20</sup>”



Explain/analyze the significance of this.

---

<sup>19</sup> Stockett, *The Help*, 194.

<sup>20</sup> Stockett, *The Help*, 217.

## Conclusion

Segregation laws – the “separate, but equal” policy discriminated African Americans, as they had no right to use the services, facilities and public accommodation of the White people. Likewise, black people were treated as cheap work force and were underpaid. The government’s and officials’ attitudes were highly negative, it is worth reminding that the racial hatred in Jackson was a common phenomenon and no measures were taken to limit that. Moreover, officials such as police officers are especially unfriendly towards black people.

In the novel or in history?

The body reveals that Hilly – the employer of Minnie was zealous adherent of racial segregation - she treated African Americans as a worse kind of citizens, who shall serve white people and be loyal to them in every case. She had a great influence on her friends, who followed her orders. As presented in the body, the impassivity to injustice towards African Americans is highly stressed in the novel - white people did not react or defend them from untrue accusations. They accepted racism and racial hatred, preferred to be blind to suffering of the others to avoid the problems. On the other hand, the African Americans could not defend themselves, as they were perceived as untrustworthy. The social pressure, especially among the elite, were put to not change the situation of black people, and to not interfere into civil rights movements.

OK - this is consistent

As shown in the essay, the help had very good relations with the children, as they were not affected by racism and they treated their nannies as advisors, friends, or even perceived them as second mothers. Another example of good relations the relation

between Minnie and Celia, who was regarded by Minnie as too kind and familiarizing with the household servants, because she had never experienced that kind of treatment.

Summarizing, in order to answer the research question: To what extent were African Americans treated unfavorably in the United States of America in the 1960s on the basis of the work "*The Help*"?, a deep investigation of relations between white and black people was needed. It is worth mentioning that the place of action - state of Mississippi, Jackson, was the most inimical region for African Americans, where the scale of racial hatred was the biggest in the United States of America. The African Americans were treated unfavorably to the great extent, as the government imposed strict, limiting laws on them; they were treated as a worse type of citizens and were underpaid. The social pressure not to change the situation of that time was huge, and strong lobby were active, especially among elite. African Americans did not have any possibility to defend false accusations, they were guilty in advance. Although, many employers had neutral or good relations with the black servants, nevertheless being too familiar with African Americans was regarded as awkward. Young people or kids who experienced love from their black maids were more sensitive towards their situation, for example Skeeter, who decided to oppose the elite and fight for the civil rights of the African Americans. Many good relations are shown in the work, where the help becomes the part of the family as Constantine, or becomes friends with an employer as Celia and Minnie. In conclusion, saying that African Americans were always treated badly would be an exaggeration, but they had much worse situation than White people.

This summary is fairly consistent with what was presented in the essay.

Really? That is not what was shown.



## Works cited

### Written sources:

Stockett Kathryn, *The Help*. New York: Penguin Books, 2009.

### Digital sources:

*The Help*. Directed by Taylor Tate. New York: Buena Vista, 2011. DVD

Where are the secondary sources on the Civil Rights Movement? There really should be more secondary source support for an RQ like this.

! This but on

Some argument discernable with some support —  
The Style is a bit too narrative but decent under standing and attempt to use textual evidence is present.

There is decent knowledge of the works and how the characters fit in the social context of the times. There is an attempt to provide textual support to bolster the argument, however, the analysis is weak generally. The dependence on a narrative style falls short. Overall, the candidate show some knowledge and at least a basic understanding of the social context of the work and how it reflects the reality of the times through the maids' eyes.