

this idea in the image of the circular staircase, suggesting that we may circle around to the same spot we began at, but as we are higher up the staircase, we are somehow different, more knowledgeable, despite having come back to the beginning.

*Thesis:* As Scout in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* matures, her world similarly expands.

- Point 1: As the novel opens, Scout's world is limited to her street, and her humor and adventures reflect the innocence of her worldview.
- Point 2: As Scout enters school, she meets new people in Mayfield, encountering cultures and ideas that alter her perceptions and bring the first dark clouds into her life.
- Point 3: As Scout's world expands to encompass the state legal system of the downtown courtroom, she encounters the mix of good and evil she had not known as an innocent. It is also in this final stage that Boo Radley re-enters her life, and she sees him now with the eyes of an adult, not a child.

**CONTINUUM:** A mathematical concept, a continuum is the laying out of items along a line that shows their gradual shift or evolution. For instance, a continuum for American politics might put revolutionaries and radicals at the left end of a line, modest liberals to the right of the radicals, slight conservatives to the right of the liberals, and fascists or communists at the far right of the line. Thus, as we move from left to right, we move from more anarchic forms of government to increasingly centralized forms of government. This clarifies how government's role is perceived by differing groups. In this way, a continuum enables us to understand a concept by seeing it in a variety of forms.

*Thesis:* The viability of capitalism in John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* alters as we see its effect on various levels of society.

- Point 1: The novel begins with a series of images of centralized power, as bankers in the East destroy the land and dispossess farmers. Their selfishness is echoed in the ranchers who hire migrants to work land the ranchers themselves no longer view except on paper.
- Point 2: As we meet more of the middle and lower class citizens, we also encounter an increasing series of displays of affection and concern, suggesting that those with less money tend to be more oriented to those around them.
- Point 3: In passages predicting revolution, Steinbeck introduces a third group of citizens, the unionists and radicals who are willing to subvert capitalism rather than submit to it. In contrast to the narrowness of the Eastern elites, these revolutionaries fight for the welfare of all.