

## ***TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD AND SARTRE'S ENGAGEMENT***

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### ***ABSTRACT***

*In his book, What is Literature? French writer and philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre raises an important question, "For whom does one write?" Sartre says that a piece of art doesn't exist in isolation. It has to see the light of the day and come in contact with the world, it has to have a readership. For him the role of the reader is of utmost significance. Perception and attentiveness of the reader can make or mar the essence of a text. He says that a text becomes itself through the reader, it is the reader who gives a text its significance. It is the indulgence of the reader that makes a text alive and also makes it cater to a certain goal. For Sartre both the freedom of the author as well as the reader are importance, the author shall be free to express and the reader should be free from all the prejudices to get the true spirit of a text, "the writer appeals to the reader's freedom to collaborate in the production of his work" (Sartre). The author creates a world, its revelation is the duty of the reader, and the things which need the most to be revealed are the things unsaid. The silences need to be given a voice, and it is the reader through whom the silences speak. "Reading is a directed creation," says Sartre. Sartre stretches this argument and finally asserts that literature should engage with real life issues and generate awareness.*

***KEYWORDS:*** Engaged Literature, Human Rights, Reader, Author