

## **“Page 33 To Kill A Mockingbird”**

### **Poem and report by Emma O’Leary**

My poem “Page 33 To Kill a Mockingbird” was inspired by recent events I had seen taking place around the world through social media. In the weeks prior to writing there had been so much public outrage over the death of Sarah Everard, and the debates and disagreements that followed online really made me feel disheartened about the whole situation. I wanted to speak up, but it felt like being in a room where everyone is yelling and no one is being heard, so I decided to wait until things had quietened down. It wasn’t until I was scrolling through Tik Tok and saw the videos and comment sections of local people, where they spent all their time finding entertainment in using their platform to attack young girls, that I finally knew I had to do something.

I wrote a big, long rant in my notes app and intended on just speaking about the issue, but then I felt that my words would have much more impact if I turned them into a poetry piece. I spent around two hours fiddling on my notes app to change my thoughts into something coherent, and when I posted it on Instagram, I was overwhelmed with all the positive responses and kind words it received.

What I hope listeners take away from the piece is that we need to start listening to each other in order to understand each other. You can sit on two completely different sides of a debate with someone, but unless you try to see the way they’re thinking, you’ll never change their mind. I also hope that young boys can realise the damage their casual misogyny causes and really take a stand to call out their behaviour and promote awareness amongst themselves too, and that girls can realise that we need both men and women in the fight for equality. My biggest hope is that going forward we can all be kinder to each other on-line, and that we can share our opinions while respecting those of others.

You can hear my poem on the video link below:

[https://loretowexford-my.sharepoint.com/:v/p/17emmaoleary\\_student/ESPFB1Lle5BFhVaQw2UhB6EBu0igo9RDHvjQAQBzZH1f6g](https://loretowexford-my.sharepoint.com/:v/p/17emmaoleary_student/ESPFB1Lle5BFhVaQw2UhB6EBu0igo9RDHvjQAQBzZH1f6g)