

Losing ones innocence essay



Have you ever seen someone get mistreated or treated cruelly? Like when people you think are fair and kind convict an innocent man just because he was African American. Experiences like these can lead to people realizing the world is far from perfect. This is called losing your innocence.

In one book 3 children experience this kind of cruelty firsthand. Harper Lee's purpose of writing this book was to show how the world may look fine at first but as you grow older you realize that not everyone treats each other kindly or fairly. In Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird", the innocence of Dill, Scout, and Jem is taken away. In "To Kill a Mockingbird", Dill is one example of someone losing their innocence. One example of Dill losing his innocence is when Mr. Gilmer was disrespectful to Tom Robinson in the courthouse, this made Dill very upset.

This shows that Dill lost his innocence because when Mr. Gilmer called Tom "boy" Dill started crying and had to leave. A second example of when Dill lost his innocence is when he found out that Tom got shot 17 times. This supports that Dill lost his innocence because when he was describing the way Helen Robinson reacted he was very emotional.

Last, when Dill says "It was just him I couldn't stand"..." That old Mr. Gilmer doin him thataway, talkin so hateful." (Lee, 198) it shows that Dill is realizing that some people are not nice to each other. Dill's actions are proof that he lost his innocence because he sees that people are sometimes hateful to one another. Another character who lost their innocence is Scout. First when Scout meets Dolphus Raymond she sees that the world is not perfect.

This shows that Scout lost her innocence because she sees that in order to be happy in life Dolphus has to pretend to be a drunk just to be socially accepted. Another example is when Scout is attacked by Bob Ewell. This supports that Scout lost her innocence because she sees that even an adult would try to kill kids just for revenge. Finally, when Scout says " Well, it'd sorta be like shootin'a mockingbird, wouldn't it? ". (Lee, 276) This shows that Scout realizes that some people are nice and do no harm and that other people are more deserving of punishment.

This evidence shows that Scout lost her innocence because she sees the way people treat each other. The third character who lost their innocence is Jem. My first example is when Jem had to read for Mrs. Dubose after he destroyed her flowers. This shows that Jem lost his innocence because he realized that she had a lot of problems and had to struggle with them, and that he helped her to overcome those problems.

Another example is when Tom was found guilty after Jem thought for sure he could not be found guilty. This took away Jem's innocence because he was positive Tom would be found innocent and then he was found guilty by people who could tell by the evidence he was clearly innocent. A quote that supports that Jem lost his innocence is when it says " It was Jem's turn to cry. His face was streaked with tears as we made our way through the cheerful crowd. " (Lee, 212) This shows that Jem sees that people treat each other unfairly and are satisfied with the results. These facts show that Jem lost his innocence because he sees that some people have problems that can even lead to death and that people are satisfied even if they know what happened is wrong.

This is why in "To Kill a Mockingbird", a novel by Harper Lee, Dill, Scout, and Jem get their innocence taken from them. Dill showed that he lost his innocence when he saw that people were mean to each other. Scout showed that she lost her innocence when she sees that people act totally different to be accepted, and that a grown man would kill kids. Last, Jem showed he lost his innocence when he saw that people would convict an innocent man just because he is African American. Even though it is a cruel thing to lose your innocence sometimes it is the right thing to happen so that you can understand the way the world really works.