A world of fairness and equality

A child does not know the difference between black, and white, or rich, and poor. Once children can recognize the difference between these they have lost their innocence and will never look at the world the same again. Similar to this circumstance in the historical fiction novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by harper lee Jem and scout the two main characters are two children who realize the harsh reality of their society after their father accepts a case involving a black man and a white woman. The way the court case affects them transitions them from a childlike way of thinking to a non-corrupted adult way of thinking. The way Harper Lee shows this transition is with her two main characters Jem and Scout. She uses them in scenarios that showcase their new positive, non-corrupt way of thinking. These situations include Jems defense for a roly-poly, Jems defense against his father, and Scouts understands never to do wrong to somone who has not done wrong to you. These situations show how with good teaching, the transition from childhood to adulthood has a positive effect.

The character of Jem finch is used in many ways throughout the novel to show his gaining of maturity, and with that maturity he gains a non-corrupt way of thinking about the way others are treated. When he and his sister are sitting on the porch and she goes to squish a roly-poly he usually would have not thought twice about it. “Why couldn’t I mash him?” I asked. “Because they don’t bother you” Jem answered in the darkness (320). While Jem preventing his sister from killing a simple pill bug is not to the extreme of the court case that his father is involved in, this situation is used by harper lee to show the audience that Jem has matured. This maturity has been gained to a level where he understands that it is not okay to hurt someone or something who has done nothing wrong as opposed to him learning it is okay to be disrespectful to others for no reason. Jem has matured the right way the way as a result of a god influence from his father. Now the way Jem looks at the world and how people are treated has been changed for the better as a result of his father’s correct teaching.

Not only does the roly-poly scenario showcase how a good influence results in good way of thinking, but also when Jem and scout do not know where their father is, Jem finds him and stands up for him. "Go home son" said Atticus. "No" said Jem (203). In this scenario Jem is not listening to his father which to some would be interpreted as him not respecting his father and therefore showing absence of maturity. This however is not the case, because of Jems resistance towards his father he is actually preventing his father from being beat up. Jem is now able to stand by his father’s side and stand up for what he knows is truly right. This scenario is used by Harper lee to express the growth in Jems maturity. Jems new way of looking at the court case has been greatly influenced by his father. The way Jem acted that night was in the right mindset due to his influences. If Jems way of thinking was not influenced by the right kind of person the outcome of that night would have been very different. Now because of Jems father Jem is able to stand up for what he truly believes in no matter what anyone tells him. This is a key skill to life that was correctly influenced by his father during his transition from a child state of mind to a more adult point of view.

In addition to Jem finch’s situations, the situation of Scout finch is a key factor In Harper Lee’s main message. In the beginning of the novel Scout Finch does not quite understand what is going on. It is not until the end of the novel when Scout is enlightened to the correct un-corrupted way of thinking. At the end of the novel, Scouts father reads her a story. “an’ they chased him n’ never could find him’ cause they didn’t know what he looked like, and Atticus when they found him, why he hadn’t done any of those things… Atticus, he was real nice…” (376). The similarities between the story and the court case is used as a tool by Harper Lee to inform the audience that Scouts father has showed Scout that sometimes people are disrespectful to others for no apparent reason. The way scout was taught to look at people was correctly taught to her by her father. Scouts father has succeeded in transitioning her thinking from a childlike point of view to a more adult point of view that will have a positive outcome.

Transitioning from childhood to adulthood has a more positive effect with good teaching. This is easily seen with the two main characters Jem and scout when Jem stops Scout from killing the roly-poly, when Jem stands up for his father, and when Scout understands it is not okay to be mean to someone for no reason. All of these situations are the outcome of their father’s teachings which have influenced the two children to look at the world with fairness and equality. If these children were not taught by the right source they would not know that it is not acceptable to look at others and judge them for no other reason besides the color of their skin, their wealth, or that they are weak and defenseless.