Jem Finch is a strong-willed, young boy who loves guns, football, and smelling camellias. It may seem like these interests contradict each other, but Jem understands the equal importance of being strong and courageous as well as appreciating the beauty of things that are only here for us to enjoy, He is able to balance the values in his life. In the book To Kill A

Mockingbird by Harper Lee, Jem comes across many experiences that help him to mature his personal views and begin the journey to his manhood. Jem starts out as a reckless, little boy who cares little about the consequences of his actions and evolves into a responsible, compassionate contrast beginning to and young man. Most thirteen year old boys do not pay attention to people's social status, practice selffess empathy or have a mature idea of way becoming a man means, but Jem Finch is not like most boys. Jem learns valuable lessons and his character changes in several ways as the book for the beginning of the story, Jem has the idea that all folks in their society are equal, but as the novel continues he sees new aspects in Maycomb that show him the harsh reality of

young man. Most thirteen year old boys do not pay attention to people's social status, practice selfless empathy or have a mature idea of what becoming a man means, but Jem Finch is not like most boys. Jem learns valuable lessons and his character changes in several ways as the book progresses.

At the beginning of the story, Jem has the idea that all folks in their society are equal, but as the novel continues he sees new aspects in Maycomb that show him the harsh reality of prejudice. Jem sees that Negros, like Tom Robinson, are disrespected and automatically thought of as dangerous. Poorer families are also treated differently and Jem realizes this when his Aunt Alexandra will not allow Scout to invite a Cunningham over to play, saving there is no doubt in my mind that they're good folks. But they are not our kind of folks" (page 226). In this book Jem figures out for himself that there are four types of people in his society. There are the normal ones, those who live in the woods like the Cunninghams, those who live like the Ewells in the dump and the Negros. Each class is different from the next and Jem realizes the distinctive expectations and assumptions each group has.

Another way Jem matures is by learning how to observe the emotions of others and then act accordingly. As a younger boy, he prefers his points.

regret for some of the things he has done and decides to take other people's feelings into consideration. Scout notices this change when her brother takes care of her one night and helps her to feel better. Jem learns to make people feel right when things go wrong. The meaning of manhood changes in Jem's mind as the book goes on and his ideas grow to be more knowledgeable about who it is he will become. At the start, Jem thinks that all men are strong, agile individuals who can play tackle football and fight off any opponent with might. He would get angry and embarrassed of his father, when Atticus said he was too old to do things that Jem thought to be necessary for a man to do. Eventually, Jem learns that to be a man you need to possess more than just bodily strength. Jem hears from Atticus that having courage is "when you know you're licked before you begin but you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what" (Page 116). Men are people who can be spiritually strong and support themselves and others when times get rough. They know when to fight, when to stand down, and what their true values are Jem learns that being a man means fighting each day to follow the good and many fent. honest path in life Jem Finch matures in this book to become a more understanding and considerate person. He knows he will be able to begin a fight even when he will inevitably lose. Jem can see the

