

The universal theme of loss of innocence shows the reader the oftentimes painful process of growing up. In Harper Lee's classic novel To Kill a Mockingbird, the theme loss of innocence is portrayed through the children's obsession with Boo Radley.

During their first summer together, Dill develops a strong interest in their mysterious neighbor, Boo Radley. According to Scout "Dill gave us the idea of making Boo Radley come out". The reader can infer Dill's childlike mindset through his idea that Boo can be made to come, as if it were a game or were a matter of simply finding the correct temptation, almost as if it were a game. Dill gives no thought to the much deeper meaning of why Boo never comes out. As the children experience the harsh realities of their world they ~~lose~~ ~~this innocent~~ begin to understand the reasons that Boo stays inside and the cease to play their game. Losing their innocence forces them to realize that Boo's situation is not a game.

Lee introduces the children Jem, Dill and Scout, who will be forced to grow up too soon due to circumstances beyond their control. Making Boo come out is a game that allows them to hold on to their innocence for just a little longer.