**Cycle of Affection**

“Affection is responsible for nine-tenths of whatever solid and durable happiness there is in our lives,” quoted from C.S. Lewis. Growing to understand this, the amount and quality of attentiveness a child is given is based on what attentiveness their guardians have received. In Harper Lee’s historical fiction book *To Kill A Mockingbird*, a boy named Charles Baker Harris (Dill) runs away from his own family to the Finches’ house in search of the attention that every child needs. Dill’s parents prove that earthly possessions cannot show compassion, earthly possessions cannot show feelings towards a person, and earthly possessions cannot give a child the attention he/she requires. Simply stated, affection attempted to be displayed through materialism is most always artificial.

The way a person treats others is a simple reflection of how a person previously has been treated. “‘They ain’t mean. They buy me everything I want, but it’s now-you’ve-got-it-go-play-with-it. You’ve got a room full of things’” (191).To further this point, Dill’s parents cannot be assumed as unappreciative of Dill if what they are doing to him is unintentional. “‘You’re not a boy. Boys get out and play baseball with other boys, they don’t hang around the house worryin’ their folks’” (191). Dill feels accepted as a child at the Finches’ house rather than his own home, and turns to them as a source of guidance. Accordingly, Dill’s parents give the impression that they never had a stable sense of home, reflecting on the way they are raising Dill.

Misunderstanding of feelings towards a person could transpire when those feelings are not verbalized. If material possessions are the only approach towards a person, that person may begin to feel generally unwanted. “‘They don’t get around to doing what they say they’re gonna do half the time…’ ‘That wasn’t it, he - they just wasn’t interested in me’” (190). Coming to realize that children grow into the people that taught them everything they know, it is a never ending cycle. Dill’s character reinforces a display of emotional foundation a child needs from their peers. “‘They stayed gone all the time, and when they were home, even, they’d get off in a room by themselves’” (190). To conclude, the opinion of a person can be misinterpreted when viewpoints are not clarified.

Affection attempted to be shown through materialism is most always artificial. Physical objects cannot show feelings or give attention to a child that requires social attentiveness. The next time someone is given materialistic items, make sure to give them what is on the heart as well. The gift of thoughts is one of the world’s greatest, and opportunities to tell surrounding people personal viewpoints are often bypassed. Ask yourself what comes first; people, or possessions?