Is it better remaining a child?

Growing up or loss of innocence, the complicated mental development of self when belief is lost and truth is realized is an evident theme in Harper Lee’s novel, *To Kill A Mockingbird*. For example, Cecil Jacobs presents his current event on ‘Old Hitler’ and his merciless attitude towards the Jews, “Well, I don’t know for certain…That ain’t no cause to persecute ’em. They ‘re white, ain’t they?” (Harper Lee, 245). Cecil is at a loss of words as he is not able to grasp the idea of a white man treating another white unfairly and cruelly. He has begun the unreturnable path towards realizing that their blemished society interests in matters out of their reach but turns around and acts ugly to folk right at home. In addition, Dill feels that his family gets on a lot better without him and flees off to the Finchs’, “Maybe he doesn’t have anywhere to run off to…” (144). He finally understands what keeps Boo Radley hidden for all these years when he ponders over his own present circumstances. He reaches the maturity level to comprehend that not everyone belongs somewhere and it’s at this stage that he appreciates the roles of Scout, Jem and Atticus in his live. Furthermore, Dill tries to pull himself together after viewing Mr. Gilmer’s cross-examination of Thomas Robison, “I don’t care one speck. It ain’t right; somehow it ain’t right to do ‘em that way. Hasn’t anybody got any business talkin’ like that – it just makes me sick” (199). He utterly shocked as to how the tone and type of speech is altered by the color of the skin of the person being talked to. It is difficult for him to believe that society not only accepts such behavior but also practices it. Moreover, Scout assists Boo back to Radley house’s front porch after the long Halloween night, “I had never seen our neighborhood from this angle…Atticus was right” (278). She stands there looking at her ‘little world’ from yet another angle and understands how different it is from her own. Her intellectual of the world grows as she explores and figures out the various viewpoints of a situation and learns to respect them. Equally important, Scout hears the final verdict of the first controversial trial of the black man, “I saw something that only a lawyer’s child could be expected to see…It was like watching Atticus walk into the street, raise a rifle to his shoulder and pull the trigger, but watching all the time knowing that the gun was empty” (211). Young Scout recognizes the situation and could easily predict the most possible and maybe already know result of the trial. She now knows that no matter how hard one tries to emancipate prejudgments based solely on conventional and stereotypical beliefs, the majority will hamper a conclusion founded on knowledge and moral. So, is it better to live life like a child unaware of the complexities of adult society, full of immoralities and constant vigilance or ‘Is it not time to worry, yet?’