

As I was growing up, one of the hardest things I had to learn was how lies and deception affect those around me. No matter how much I tried to make myself believe that what I said had no consequences, it never seemed to help. On the outside, no one was able to tell that I was being dishonest, but when I started not knowing what was a lie and what was true I realized I had taken it too far. Although I thought it was normal for children to exaggerate the truth I felt bad about it and felt I did it way too much. I lied about everything. Although no one knew what I was doing, I felt as if I was hurting them. To grow as a person one must expand her outlook on life by learning the repercussions of her actions and realizes how bad lying can be.

In the novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Huck realizes how bad lying can be, just as I realized it through the years. At the beginning, Huck does not really seem to care if he tells the truth or a lie. He lies to a woman in order to find out information about where he is. He dresses as a girl and pretends his name is Sarah. He gets caught in his lie when he forgets what he told her his name was: "Oh, yes'm, I did. Sarah Mary Williams. Sarah's my first name. Some calls me Sarah, some calls me Mary" (Twain 59). He does not even care that he is deceiving this poor lady when she is showing him every courtesy. MORE

Huck first realizes the consequences of lying when he tries to trick Jim into believing that they did not lose one another in the fog and that Jim just made the whole thing up: "When I got all wore out eid work, en wid de callin' for you, en went to sleep, my heard wuz mos' broke bekase you wuz lost.... En all you wuz thinking 'bout wuz how you culd make a fool ou ole Jim wid a lie" (Twain 86). Huck can see that when he lied to Jim it really hurt him even if it was just a joke. At this point Huck really begins to grow. One can see this when he says, "I didn't do him no more

mean tricks, and I wouldn't done that one if id a knowed it would make him feel that way" (Twain 87).

In the book *Sloppy Firsts* the main character, Jessica Darling, also realizes that lying does cause a great deal of harm to the people that she cares about. At the beginning of the book her best friend, Hope, moves away and she feels like she is left on her own. Her only friends left are three girls named Bridget, Sara, and Manda, whom she calls "the clueless crew." Although she hates them, she would rather hang out with them than be alone, so she lies to them by pretending to like them. "These are supposed to be my friends," she observes. "But more often than not, I cannot stand them" (McCafferty 12).

Being friends with Marcus, a boy whom normally she would not talk to, she realizes that lying is not making her any happier. Later in the book she realizes that she is sick and tired of lying about her being friends, and hanging out with people she dislikes. When she finds the courage to tell them how she feels it not only tears her and her friends apart but all the lies come out between all the members of their group. "Marcus Flutie was right. I can't stand to be around any of you. I'm sick of keeping secrets because I don't want to stir up trouble. (McCafferty, 203)

Although she realized it was best to come clean with her "friends" about the fact she did not like them, she still was still lying to her best friend about everything that followed. Her best Hope's brother died of a drug overdose so she hates the whole drug scene and any of his old friends. Jessica became really close with one of his old friends, Marcus. She liked him a lot but she did not have the heart to tell Hope the truth worrying about her reaction. After she finds out that Marcus lied to her and realized how much that hurt she could just think how she was hurting Hope by not being completely honest either. "I wanted to tell you all that stuff about Marcus sooner. But I just was afraid my "whatever" relationship with him would ruin the real friendship I have with you (McCafferty, 279)." In this it shows how she has become a

more honest person and is now finally willing to own up to all her lies.

In the movie *A Walk to Remember*, Landon Carter is a lying troublemaker who does not seem to care about anyone but himself. At the beginning of the movie he does not care who he hurts as long as he is having a good time. He tells a boy that if he jumps off a tower into the water with him they will be new friends. The water is so shallow so the boy ends up getting hurt. When questioned about his involvement he lies and says that he was just at the wrong place at the wrong time. "You're a Jedi master of B.S (Shankman)." His friends all see his lying skills as something good.

When he meets Jamie Sullivan his whole life seems to change. He falls for her and she makes him a better person. Everything is great until he realizes that she is keeping something from him. He cannot believe that she was lying to him and is stunned that she had not told him before. "So why didn't you tell me?" "The doctor said I should go on and live life normally as best I could (Shankman)." This was when Jamie first told Landon what she was hiding. She just told him she had Leukemia. Even though Jamie kept this from him she cared about him and kept by his side until the end. He understood that she was lying to protect his feelings even though he still would have liked to know the truth.

Although it is sometimes easier or more convenient to lie it has always been my experience that, no matter what, the truth usually comes out so it is best to be the one to tell it. In all these books, movies, and even my true-life experiences the fact is that lying never gets you anywhere. If you tell the truth, people might get mad, but if they find it out later from someone else they will be even angrier because you lied to them and lying shows a lack of trust and respect. If you have to lie about something you should wonder whether it is smart to be doing it or not. I am glad that I have learned over the years what harm lying can do and I have tried not to lie as much. I cannot say that I have stopped lying forever and that I am changed

because truthfully that is not reality. Everyone lies about one thing or another you just need to tell the truth...