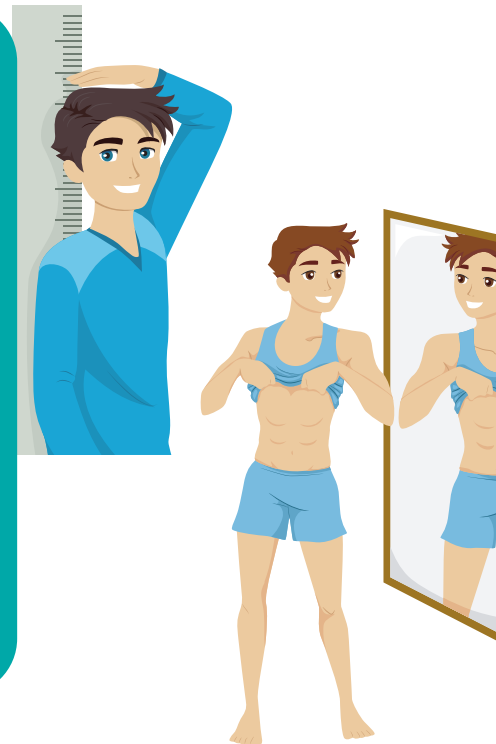


COMING OF

AGE

In general, “coming of age” refers to the period in a person’s life when they make the transition from the innocence of childhood to the maturity of adulthood. Keep in mind, the specific time when coming of age occurs can vary from person to person. Typically, people have this experience during their teenage years. That’s when they finally shed their childhood self and start to become an adult. Additionally, many consider the onset of puberty to correspond with coming of age.

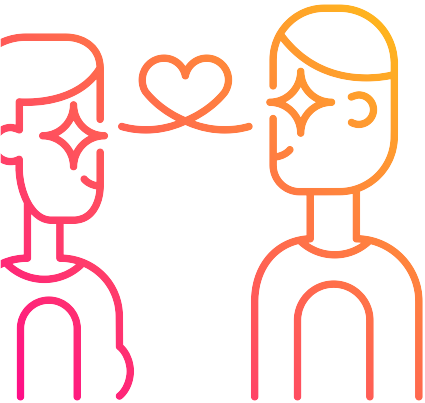
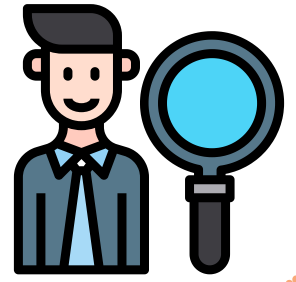


Coming of age is such a universal human experience that numerous films, stories, and novels depict it. When famous people write autobiographies or memoirs, they often focus on this period of their lives as well. Songs about aging and general books on aging also tend to relate to the subject. It’s easy to understand why this time in our lives plays such an important role in our cultures. Coming of age marks a dramatic shift that all people who reach adulthood will experience.



FROM CHILD TO ADULT

After all, childhood is a unique time. It's the only period of life when most people are truly free of adult responsibilities. It's a time when we typically don't grasp the full realities of aging. It's a time when life may not have exposed us to experiences that will be common later, such as having a job, being in love, or raising children of our own.



That all changes when we become adults. We start to develop romantic and sexual feelings. Our responsibilities become more important. We also may face some of life's harsh realities, such as death, for the first time. All these shifts inevitably change who we are.

As you become an adult, you experience coming of age. That's a key reason so many filmmakers depict it. They know audiences will be able to relate, and they know this genre allows them to tell a genuinely emotional story. Examples of films & books include:

- Perks of being a Wallflower
- The Catcher in the Rye
- The House on Mango Street
- Looking for Alaska



- Boyhood
- Juno
- The Edge of Seventeen
- Clueless
- Mean Girls
- Love, Simon

