When faced with adversity and difficult times, kids and teenagers must mature faster than other kids their age to be able to handle what they are going through.

In the book, *The House on Mango Street*, Alicia and Esperanza both had to mature faster to be able to take care of themselves. All throughout the book, Esperanza describes her and her family’s struggles and her reactions to them. She talks about moving constantly, living in a not nice neighborhood, sexuality, etc. Esperanza had to grow up when she was moving around a lot to deal with leaving a home. Also, when she realized that she did not want to be stuck on Mango Street forever and since she knew her family can’t help her with her education, she matured and followed Alicia’s example and began to work harder in her studies and on her writing, especially her poems.

Another person in this book that had to mature faster was Alicia. When Alicia’s mother died, as the oldest, Alicia had to step up and take her mother’s place as the family caretaker, cook, housekeeper, etc. She made food, got rid of dead rats, and essentially became her family’s surrogate mother. Alicia didn’t have time to be a kid when her mom died, and someone had to take care of her family, otherwise they would suffer. Alicia realized quickly the only way out of her mom’s old position was education and she began to work hard in school so she could leave and not spend the rest of her life working in her childhood home or in a factory.

In the real world, adversity and hard ship is everywhere. Wherever adversity is, the children and teenagers suffering under it mature and grow up to face the problem. It’s everywhere, not just in the media or in books, but in people’s every day lives. There are many examples. Kids who have drug and alcohol abusers for parents have to take care of themselves and any of their siblings since their parents are probably indisposed most of the time. Teenagers whose parents don’t have a job suffer. Divorces. Abusive families. Ignored by parents. These are all issues that teenagers go through and when they are supposed to be out with friends or doing homework, they are working to pay the bills, worrying about when their next meal will be, or taking care of younger brothers and sisters.