

## “Quest For Fire” Socialization Across the Life Cycle

Socialization does not just end when kids move out of their parents house. At the start of the seventh season of Home Improvement, Tim provides us an excellent example of the midlife transition.

### **The midlife crisis**

- Daniel Levinson (psychologist)
- A stressful period of self-evaluation for males and female, in which they realize that they have not achieved basic goals and ambitions.
- People tend to feel they are running out of time to accomplish things.
- Roughly occurs around 40.

### **The sandwich generation**

- Adults who simultaneously try to meet the competing needs of their parents and their children.

### Video Clip Questions

What indicators did Tim give to his family (and Wilson) that he was experiencing a midlife transition?

What are some of the questions (challenges) that hit Tim as he was examining his life?

According to the video, what are some ways people handle this transition?



## Adjusting to Retirement

- Retirement is a rite of passage that marks a critical transition from one phase of a person's life to another.
- Typically, this transition occurs around 60.

Phase	Description of Experience
<b>Preretirement</b>	A period of anticipatory socialization as the person prepares for retirement.
<b>Near</b>	When a person establishes a specific departure date from his or her job.
<b>Honeymoon</b>	An often euphoric period in which the person pursues activities that he or she never had time for before.
<b>Disenchantment</b>	The retiree feels a sense of letdown or even depression as they cope with their new lives, which may include illness or poverty.
<b>Reorientation</b>	The development of a more realistic view of retirement alternatives.
<b>Stability</b>	A period in which the person learned to deal with life after retirement in a reasonable and comfortable fashion.
<b>Termination</b>	Begins when the person can no longer engage in basic, day-to-day activities such as self-care and housework.

Source: Schaffer, Richard T., *Sociology: A Brief Introduction*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2011.