

Life lessons from adolescents with life-threatening illnesses

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Adolescents are in the developmental phase between **childhood** and **adulthood**



Adolescents have the **maturity** to **understand** what is going to happen



No matter what the law says, most adolescents are still **children in the eyes of their parents**



School and **friends** are the most important “things” in the world to them



We're not dying. We're **living**



Adolescents have **sex**



Adolescents with life-threatening illnesses get **depressed** and **anxious**



Adolescents who know they won't survive for long are **worried** about their **parents**



Adolescents who are dying want
honesty



Adolescents who are about to die
often **tell us** in some form or
another



Dying adolescents **very seldom**
ask for euthanasia



Sometimes you'll **identify** with the
patients and sometimes you'll
identify with the **parents**



It's OK to **care** and it's OK to **grieve**



Thank you to my lovely patients who have
taught me so much

