

## **The youths' blood**

Nowadays adults tend to see teenagers as ignorant and naive, they think that we know nothing about life and learn even less during our early teenage years. Yes, we mess up sometimes, even in our school there are many examples of teenage pregnancy, drug problems and bullying. Call me blind, say that I only say this because I'm one of them, but I don't think those accusations are right, because it's during this period of our lives that we learn the most valuable things for our future, and I'm not talking about school, that's just a little detail in our time of big excitement and discoveries. Sure, sometimes we show the complete opposite as I said before, there are times that we behave like animals. We don't think about our actions and we don't care about other people's opinions, and most of the time we end up committing mistakes. However it's from those same mistakes that we learn the biggest lessons that stay with us for the rest of our lives. You are adults and you were teens some years ago. Have you forgotten that for most of you it was at that point of your life that you had your first love, your first heartbreak, you made friends as if there was no tomorrow? Well... you've done many things for the first time, some were good others not so much, but still you learned something from those experiences. Do you still practice what you learned? Yes, I think you do.

It is at this exact age that you learn not to trust everybody you see and shows you a nice smile; that most of the friends you have won't stay with you forever; that at this age love comes and goes so easily that it's not worth crying because your boyfriend or girlfriend dumped you. I know some of these things may look foolish, but we live our lives so intensively. This is our world! You also learn that the most important thing in life isn't the outer beauty; how much those clothes cost and where you bought them. Nevertheless there will always be someone judging you, most of the time without any good reason, you learn that you have to work hard to have what you deserve and still you won't always get it, that life isn't fair... You see... It doesn't matter if you're a nerd, a gothic or the popular one, we all know what we are, what we like and dislike, and eventually we start to learn our own lessons.

I know it's hard to understand, we are very stubborn, we like to challenge the others, we like to make mistakes, even though we know there are consequences. It's in the youths' blood, to challenge the laws of gravity, to endanger our lives, to smoke that cigarette, to get drunk with our friends, to kiss the wrong boy or girl, to go out late at night and come home only the next day, to think that there's no problem if we only study tomorrow, because we still have time...it may look like we don't have the notion of what we're doing, that we don't grow mentally and that sometimes we are harming ourselves, but deep inside we know that our attitudes can be harmful. The problem is that we want to seize every moment of this age of big mistakes, excitements and wildness, because we all know from the time we start growing and become responsible adults, have a full-time job, get married and have kids, there's no turning back.

To me, it looks like we are not so naive, we know more than you think.

Cristina Cardoso