

**LIFE AFTER LOSS: A PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY
OF ADOLESCENTS WHO LOST A PARENT**

An Undergraduate Research Project

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this phenomenological study was to achieve deeper and broader understanding on the lived experiences of adolescents who lost a parent. Interviews were conducted with six participants, ages 17-19 years old using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis. The tape-recorded interviews with the adolescent participants were analysed using IPA. The data identified three general themes that reveal the adolescents' lived experiences: experiencing changes in family pattern, changes in relationship with other people and changes in one's inner. Findings of the study indicated that the adolescents' relationship with other family members, relatives and friends or peers provided them with social, emotional and financial support at the time they needed it the most. However, the relationship with this same set of people also caused conflict and other negatively-themed experiences.