

GROWING OLD

1. The thought of getting older stirs different emotions in everyone. When you're 12, you long to be 16; at 16-18; and at 18-21. After 21 some people never admit to being any older. What do you feel when someone asks how old you are? What age would you like to be? Why?
2. Someone said that "the pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; the optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty" Does getting older seem like all difficulty to you, or are there feelings of opportunity that arise in you?
3. When you see aged people, what are your feelings about them? Robert Browning wrote: "Grow old along with me/ The best is yet to be." What feelings do these lines stir in you?

OPTIONAL

For many people, old age is very difficult. It can be a very lonely time. Cards, phone calls and visits mean a lot. Do you have any relatives or friends of the family who are aged? Do you seek out their companionship? Why or why not? Do you think their companionship might be beneficial for you and for them?

FOLLOW-UP

There have been controversies involving the treatment of the aged. Should they be given some type of useful work? Should they be kept alive in hospitals when treatment is futile? Break up into small groups and discuss some of these questions.