

Looking for Alaska

Miles's final essay says: *"When adults say, 'Teenagers think they are invincible' with that sly, stupid smile on their faces, they don't know how right they are. We need never be hopeless because we can never be irreparably broken. We think that we are invincible because we are. We cannot be born, and we cannot die. Like all energy, we can only change shapes and sizes and manifestations. They forget that when they get old. They get scared of losing and failing. But that part of us greater than the sum of our parts cannot begin and cannot end, and so it cannot fail."* (p.219 l.15 ff)

Comment on Miles statement.

Miles's final essay

Being a teenager is not easy. It's a time of change, a time of permanent challenges. There are typical teenage problems such as finding new friends, loving someone who doesn't love you back, having problems with your parents and figuring out your true identity. And the loss of a loved one, suffering and grief are also a part of it. Teens must cope with all of that. So, is it true what Miles says? Are we invincible? Is there a kind of immortal energy, so we cannot die?

First of all, I think the term "invincible" is not to be taken literally. Everyone knows that teens can be hurt or die like any other person. Even we know it. Adults say that we often overestimate ourselves. It's probably right.

But on the other hand, we have a completely different attitude to life than adults. We are just starting to live. We try new things and want to make our own experiences. So does Miles. Furthermore, he realizes that suffer and pain belongs to life and that everyone must find out his own way out of the labyrinth and his purpose in life. He knows that Alaska is dead, but he believes that her energy and influence will continue to exist. Because of his belief in an afterlife life has limitless possibilities and everything is survivable. That is why teenagers should live life as fully as possible and never need to be hopeless.

So all in all I think that everyone has to decide for himself if he believes in life after death or an immortal energy. But if someone believes in an afterlife in some way, this belief can give a lot of hope and strength. It is comforting and helps with grief when a loved person dies. The suffer must not follow one after death and you don't have to be hopeless for the rest of the life. Life goes on. I am convinced if one has discovered this firm belief for himself, he is invincible.