

Grief and Adolescents

Case 1

RB is a sixteen year old who lives with her aunt. Two years ago, her father murdered her mother and is now in jail. She has just split up with her boyfriend because she says she couldn't trust him. She is feeling depressed and having difficulty sleeping.

Case 2

GC is a fifteen year old boy whose father died last year. He concealed his illness from his family until he was quite sick. He died a month after GC found out about the diagnosis. GC's mother is worried because he never talks about how he feels about his father's death.

Case 3

A.N. is a fourteen year old Ojibway girl who lives in a large city. She has had a number of significant losses in her life. An older relative who lived with her family died recently. She has been seeing ghosts for a week. They are all people she knew who died. They appear both day and night and in various settings. She does not take any drugs or drink. She is scared of the ghosts, as they try to talk to her.

Case 4

JK's father died two weeks ago. He has been to his paediatrician twice. The first time he had chills and myalgia two days after his father died. Now he is complaining of insomnia. He tried to go back to school this week but couldn't concentrate. His mother says that he is impossible to live with, very irritable and seeming quite angry.

Case 5

ZG is 17. A girl at her school killed herself last month. They were in one class together. ZG says she can't stop thinking about her and is feeling bad that she didn't do anything to help her. It is interfering with her school work and she is spending much of her time lying on her bed listening to music.