Like a dandelion in the depth of winter. About youths whose external context in life is disrupted.

**Key words:** Youths, young people, context, visual method, hermeneutics, content analysis, marginalisation, life organisation, Eriksson.

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**Aim of study:** The aim of this caring science study is to deepen the understanding of what supports young people whose external contexts falter. That their external contexts falter means that they find themselves in a situation where it is difficult for them to find their place in their working lives and in their lives as students. The study’s theoretical perspective originates in the caritative theory which Eriksson has developed at Åbo Akademi University, and in which human beings are seen as a unity of body, soul and spirit.

**Study questions:** 1. What supports young people whose external contexts falter? 2. How do youths whose external contexts falter view their place in life?

**Method:** The data collection occurs through the visual method of photo elicitation and through conversations with six young individuals between the ages of 16 and 26 at a work- and study workshop in Finland. The material is interpreted in a hermeneutical movement at three levels.

**Results:** The possibility to have a good rest, community, dreams of independence, hope and love support the youths through life. The youths are carried forwards towards their place in life by freedom and dreams.

**Conclusion:** The results show that the youths’ lives move quickly and that they need to have a good rest in order to gain new strength and move on in life. They are supported by community; friends are important in their lives. They dream of becoming independent and shape their own lives and to support themselves financially. Despite them having gone through difficulties in life, they are supported by a hope that everything will eventually be all right, and overall they have a positive outlook on life. They dream of what their place in life should be like. Their dreams are about material things as well as about having a family of their own. The youths also harbour a desire that their place in life will entail the freedom to make their own choices. Love was shown in the study to be a great source of power that carries the youths through their lives.