“Midnight’s Grandchildren: Adolescence in Contemporary Global Literature” assesses the trope of adolescence in contemporary global literature, as it is employed to describe and act as a metaphor for emerging nations. My inquiry reads against the prevailing idea of adolescence as a pejorative term indicating a transitional state, and argues for adolescence as an enduring and distinct realm of infinite possibility. I chose to investigate how this social information is delivered through narrative art, which has a long history of works on adolescence, such as the bildungsroman. Unfortunately, most narratives look specifically at how the adolescent grows up, or what happens while they are looking forward towards adulthood. These types of literature play a part in the intimate link between the accepted cultural definition of adolescence as a space to outgrow and the rhetoric used to discuss and ultimately exclude emerging nations from participation in the global community. I contend that the anxiety provoked by adolescent reproduction maps on to social anxiety about emerging nations. By re-imagining adolescence in the novel as a distinct plane of existence without the baggage of “growing up,” I argue that it is possible to reimagine emerging nations on new terms that devalue and destabilize the current order.