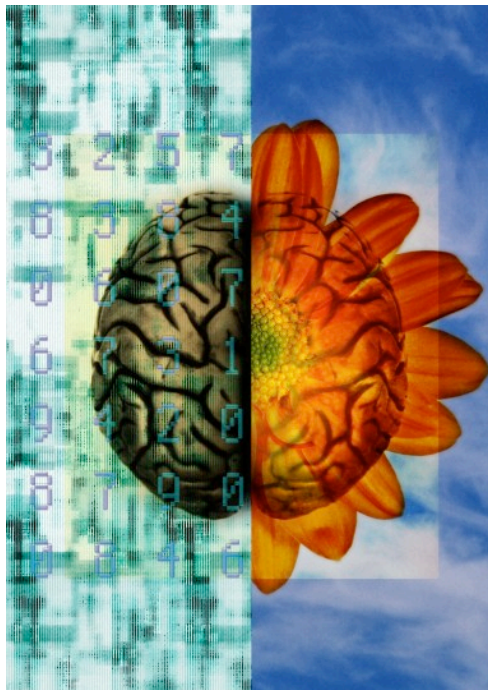


Medical Humanities at Your Fingertips



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This is a thematically organized, annotated collection of short stories, poems and essays from the perspectives of doctors, nurses, students, and patients. This collection is a medical humanities resource for faculty and students who are seeing patients, teaching or studying the featured topics.

Whether teaching in clinical or pre-clinical years, faculty are encouraged to hand out these selected readings to their students, their colleagues, or even their patients. They could be used in classroom teaching, on rounds or for informal discussion. Our aim in producing this is to foster discussion about and build stronger understanding of the psychosocial and humanistic aspects of medicine. It is our hope that this resource is actively used and helps contribute to students' more thorough understandings of people and their illness, in order to compliment our scientific understanding of their disease. Most of the original sources are available in the Humanities in Medicine Collection of the Lamar Soutter Library or can be found online.

*Selections made by: Oksana Babchenko, MSII, David Hatem, MD, and Hugh Silk, MD, MPH
Please contact us with any suggestions, comments or questions.
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Abuse/Neglect

- "God Save the Child" by Charles Atkins, MD (Young, p149)
 - A doctor's reflections on seeing children grow up without families. She concludes that though all the services our society tries to offer them do not make up for not having a real mother, they are at least a partial guardian.
- "Ironing" (White, p18)
 - A doctor is confronted with a mark on a child that may signal abuse.
- "What Doesn't Meet the Eye" by Hava Tabenkin, MD (Borkan, p121)
 - A story of missed sexual abuse between an older and younger child. A reinforcement of the fact that as doctors, we should always be on the lookout for possible clues of abuse.
- "Adventures of Amelia" by Andrea Nicki (DasGupta, p120)
 - A poignant poem of sexual abuse and the physical and emotional manifestations that result. A sad and deep poem.
- "Happiness in Quotation Marks" by Sunita Puri (DasGupta, p261)
 - A very honest, poignant account of a woman's sexual abuse traveling with her through life into medical school. Themes of anorexia, self-rejection, self-acceptance, and healing are present.
- "Admission, Children's Unit" by Theodore Deppe (Coles, p103)
 - Admitting on the children's unit, it is discovered that a little boy has cigarette burn marks on his back. The story is powerful in that despite the abuse, the child clings to his mother with all his might. A sad, eye-opening, important poem.
- "This Red Oozing" by Jeanne Bryner, RN (Coles, p155)
 - An honest, intense account of a rape of a woman and the persistence of the memory throughout her life. Thought provoking and emotionally stirring.

AIDS

- "My Heroes" by Nina K. Regevik, MD (Young, p171)
 - A doctor's experience of taking care of a young mother afflicted with and dying from AIDS. Incredibly heartwarming and touching, this story beautifully illustrates the special place a doctor may play in the life of a patient and patient's family.

Alcoholism/Drug Addiction

- "Retrieval" by Robert H. Lokey, MD (Young, p173)
 - This story is about breaking stereotypes and recovering from alcoholism beyond all odds. It is a tale of surviving and thriving after a grim and discouraging medical prognosis from another doctor.
- "The Disability Blues" by Dean Schillinger, MD (Young, p183)
 - An unlikely connection between an annoyed doctor and a difficult, drug-addicted patient. This is a story of asking an extra, non-medical question to foster a connection and promote communication.

- “Community” (White, p5)
 - A poem about a 15\$ robbery by a drug addicted woman with a baby.
- “Riddle” (White, p50)
 - A poem about generational poverty, drug addiction, and despair juxtaposed with beautiful babies born to the same fate.
- “Overdose” by Kristel Kalissaar Hunt (Svahn, p52)
 - A story about a young boy with overdose of caffeine pills. This story offers a glimpse into the circumstances that did not offer him many other options.
- “Gravy” (Carver, 118)
 - This wonderful poem is about what the poet’s life was like after he stopped drinking; it was like Gravy.
- *from* “The Tennis Partner” by Abraham Verghese, MD (Coles, p316)
 - This beautiful excerpt examines the alienating quality of leading a life in medicine. More specifically, it tells a story of a doctor who passed due to his cocaine addiction, and argues that such addictions may be both more easily acquired and more easily masked in the medical profession. It also asks the questions of why medical professionals are embarrassed by emotion. Short, but very powerful excerpt.

Anatomy

- “The Gift” by Michael A. Grassi (Young, p9)
 - A brief, autobiographical story of a body donor's life. This story bridges gap between anonymous cadaver and person in his whole.
- “Dissecting Dad” by Allan Peterkin, MD (Peterkin, p61-63)
 - A short story about a doctor’s distant recollections of Anatomy Class as his own father’s body is donated to a local medical school. A powerful story that bridges the gap between cadaver and person.
- “Naming: Gross Anatomy” by Cathrine Clark-Sayles, MD (Clark-Sayles)
 - A poem in which the medical student named the cadavers and reflected on them as people.
- “Their Bodies” by David Wagoner, MD (Wagoner)
 - A simple and beautiful poem about the importance of treating cadavers with respect and learning from them as much as possible. A poem that is used in the beginning of the Anatomy Course at Indiana University School of Medicine.
- “Anatomy Lesson” by Jack Coulehan, MD (Coulehan)
 - A creative, powerful poem about the emotion one medical student feels upon contact with his cadaver.

Boundaries

- “When to Touch” Diane Morse, MD (Young, p22)
 - A resident finds herself in a tug of war between keeping her professional distance and grieving with a patient's mother; she chooses the latter.
- “Hands On” by Mark R. Fleisher, MD (Young, p55)

- A doctor stays with a dying man until the patient's wife and son arrive.
- "Remembering Jinx" by Charles Helms, MD, PhD (Young, p79)
 - A doctor's recollection of a childhood illness and the old physician who treated him. The old physician is remembered as open, humorous, sometimes crude, but devastatingly personable. This is a story of closeness over formality.
- "The History of Crete" by Selma Harrison Calmes, MD (Young, p163)
 - A doctor connects with a difficult patient and visits him often. A story of connecting beyond the medical.

Boundaries and personal/professional balance

- "Laundry" by Susan Onthank Mates, MD (Reynolds, p349)
 - A powerful story about a woman being both a mother and a doctor. Themes touched upon include personal/professional balance, emotional involvement with patients, and how much treatment is too much treatment.

Child/Adolescent Oncology

- "The Legacy" John C. Cozart, MD (Young, p27)
 - An intern forms a close bond with a difficult adolescent boy with leukemia. This is a touching story about how often the most difficult patients are the ones who are most in need of connection.
- "He Lifted His Eyes" by Nancy Keene (Young, p279)
 - A story by a mother taking her daughter with ALL to their last appointment to take out her port. The story beautifully illustrates the great importance of compassion and kindness from doctors, even if they are tired.
- *from* "People Like That are the Only People Here: Canonical Babbling in Peed Onk" by Lorrie Moore (Coles, p101)
 - A very short excerpt about life on a pediatric oncology floor.

Culture

- "A Vacation Fit for a Cobaka" by Nancy L. Greengold, MD (Young)
 - A doctor is frustrated by her miscommunication with her Russian patients, who are prevalent in her practice. During her vacation, she decides to learn basic Russian. Her interactions with her patients are transformed, as both attempt to better understand each other. A story of leaping over cultural and language barriers.
- "Appearances" by William R. Phillips, MD (Borkan, p56)
 - A story about a doctor's misjudgment about a young, poor mother.
- "Sleepless Nights" by Jack H. Medalie, MD (Borkan, p73)
 - Very interesting collection of 3 short stories about the influence of cultural beliefs on one's health. Many themes roused: patient-doctor trust, honesty, placebo effect, and difference of culture.

- “In Terror of Hospital Bills” by James Wright (Coles, p255)
 - From the perspective of a homeless man, this poem breaks social prejudices of homeless people being apathetic and powerfully demonstrates this homeless man’s intense urge to live.

Delivering Bad News

- “The Delivery” by L. Stewart Massad, MD (Young, p194)
 - A doctor tells a woman she is dying from cancer. Despite his good intentions, there is no good way to tell someone this.
- “What the Doctor Said” by Raymond Carver (Carver, p113)
 - A poem about a doctor telling a patient that the patient has cancer. An insightful, humane perspective about the emotional undercurrents in such exchanges.

Doctor as Patient

- “My Body, My Self” by C. Sebastian (DasGupta, p 224)
 - A medical student is diagnosed with MS; here is her account of her frustration with accepting and living with her condition.
- “A Front-Row Seat” by Rachel Naomi Ramen, MD (DasGupta, p230)
 - A short story describing the post-surgical healing of a doctor.
- “Leave of Absence” by Kate A. Scannell, MD (DasGupta, p232)
 - A physician finds out she may have uterine cancer right before her flight to Paris to begin her sabbatical.
- “Happiness in Quotation Marks” by Sunita Puri (DasGupta, p261)
 - A very honest, poignant account of a woman’s sexual abuse traveling with her through life into medical school. Themes of anorexia, self-rejection, self-acceptance, and healing are present.

Eating Disorders

- “Anorexia” by Cortney Davis (DasGupta, p117)
 - A short poem/story of a close friend/relative/perhaps herself afflicted with anorexia. A very accessible, honest account.

Euthanasia

- “Let’s Talk About It” by David Rinaldi (Reynolds, p345)
 - A poem about a doctor’s moral struggle between alleviating suffering and helping inevitable death.

Extra-Medical Influences of Health/Patient-Doctor Relationship

- “The Person With the Disease” by Clifton K. Meador, MD (Young, p67)
 - This is a story about a doctor’s broadening of perspective of what influences health and the importance of patients’ life circumstances in their well-being. A story of asking all the questions.
- “Flaky” by Ronald A. Katz, MD (Young, p230)

- A story of a young man with psoriasis who is deeply affected by his condition and a doctor who is willing to thoroughly listen and help him to restore his self-esteem.
- “Touch Me” by Meg Verrees (Young, p270)
 - A wonderful account of a patient wanting someone to touch her. Very heartfelt and honest. A story about the importance of humanity in the face of illness and death. One of my favorite stories here.
- “Newfound Lands” by Ann C. Macaulay, MD (Borkan, p44)
 - A story about emotional trauma manifesting as chest pain. The importance of taking a full history.
- “Restoring the Soul” by William L. Miller (Borkan, p64)
 - A strong belief contributes to a woman’s deterioration. To save her, the doctor must do more than medicine; he must speak to her beliefs.
- “Getting Through” by Corey Magnell, student (Svahn, p12)
 - A story about a student confronted with a difficult patient. The student continues attempts at communication, but the patient shuns them – until one unexpected answer. A story about not giving up on the patient-doctor relationship.
- “A Little Extra Time” by anonymous, student (Svahn, p32)
 - An abstract, reflective prose piece about the importance of spending time with patients and staying a little idealistic.
- “Everything Sparkles” by Tiffany Holcombe (Svahn, p 104)
 - An uplifting reflection on this student’s excitement at becoming a physician and connecting with her patients.
- “The Knee” by Constance Meyd, MD (Coles, p166)
 - A poignant account of how a patient as person may be forgotten during her own physical examination. An important read for medical professionals.

Geriatrics

- “House Calls” by Ronald F. Galloway, MD (Young, p166)
 - An 80-year-old patient becomes a good friend of a doctor, as the latter visits him often at his far away home, never even bothering to file Medicare claims for reimbursement. A very humane story.
- “Dying to Live” by Eric G. Anderson, MD (Young, p179)
 - A touching story about a patient’s fervent will to live, despite his grim prognosis. Touches on themes: fear of death, family’s wishes vs. patient’s wishes, and how much treatment is too much.
- “A Ray of Hope” by Nina Phatak, student (Svahn, p41)
 - A poem contrasting the present condition of geriatric patients with their previous, young lives. A poem about remembering the full person in front of you.
- “Medicating Life?” by Aimee Vafaie, student (Svahn, p55)
 - As older patients lose their significant others to deteriorating disease, they are often left with no sense of purpose. Is this depression that should be medicated or is this life? This story offers a potent insight.

- “Morning Report” by Scott Hummel (Svahn, p100)
 - A poem about remembering the full identities, the full lives of elderly patients.
- “Warning” by Jenny Joseph (Reynolds, p264)
 - A humorous poem about how when she becomes old she will take pleasure in being bold and mischievously misbehaving. A very cute, funny poem that embraces growing old.
- “The Tenth Circle” and “The Explanation” by Paul Zimmer (Reynolds, p270)
 - These two wonderful poems go hand in hand, as they are both about the author’s father. The first poem is about hiding the times his dad falls, so they do not send him to a nursing home. And the second poem is about his father’s death. Two thought provoking poems.
- “Medicine” by Alice Walker (Reynolds, p323)
 - A beautiful poem about a grandmother taking care of the grandfather, as he is dying.
- “First Payment” by Jon Mukand, MD (Reynolds, p383)
 - A poem about a medical student’s encounter with an elderly patient and the patient’s unexpected gift to the student.
- “Pies” by Timothy J. Fisher (Coles, 204)
 - This is a wonderful, short, humorous account from the perspective of a medical student who has to interview a 93 year old man, who surprises the student with his mischievous, daring, young spirit. The old man is still the same person that he was when he was a young boy.

Meaning, renewal, and burnout

- “Thank God I Have Cancer” by David M. Mumford, MD (Young, p191)
 - A wonderfully written story about a patient struggle with cancer. The doctor befriends the patient and the patient’s wife, and is himself transformed by this friendship. A beautiful story of finding the “marrow of our humanism”.
- “The Body Flute” by Cortney Davis, RN (Coles, p20)
 - This beautiful poem is from the perspective of a nurse who takes care of people’s bodies after they died. It is both touching and deep, a reflection from the mind of a wise woman.

Medical Mistakes/Feeling Failure

- “Are You Sure?” by Thomas M. Gill (Young, p43)
 - A seemingly reasonable switch of medications sends an 82-year-old woman to the Emergency Department. This story reminds us of the importance of listening to the full story of the patient.
- “A Father’s Eyes” by Stephen Schultz, MD (Young, p52)
 - An intern runs away from a difficult case. What are the moral, ethical, and emotional implications for him and the patient’s family?
- “Livia” by Joel Lazar, MD (Young, p186)
 - This is an intense story about a very sick, obese woman who is not made better after her stay in the hospital, perhaps, because there is no

appropriate medical treatment. The doctor feels like he failed, but because of the sympathy in how he writes, the reader is allowed to empathize with them both: the doctor and Livia. Wonderful story.

- “Joshua Knew” by Liana Roxanne Clark, MD (Young, p189)
 - A doctor’s feeling of failure, frustration and sadness as a 5-year-old boy dies from complications from AIDS.
- “The Little Picture” by Barry Gelman, MD (Young, 206)
 - A story about a young girl AIDS patient who shows so much promise, despite her poor prognosis. A doctor struggles with how much treatment is too much.
- “Looking at the Gates of Hell” (White, p32)
 - A poem about a rare, progressive condition in which calcium is deposited in muscle, which turns stiff – like stone. Very sad and good.
- “Grace” by Mindy Smith, MD (Borkan, p 42)
 - A story of a missed diagnosis of anencephaly in pregnancy, a doctor’s worry, and a patient’s grief but understanding.
- “The Bleeding Girl” (Huyler, p79)
 - A doctor saves a girl’s life, but later she cannot stop bleeding. Despite previously saving her life, the doctor has to accept that she will die.
- “Sugar” (Huyler, p127)
 - A doctor almost misses a crucial piece of the history, which would have led to the death of a young girl. This story highlights the importance of taking a thorough history and considering all the possibilities.
- “Liar” (Huyler, p133)
 - A doctor misses the root of a woman’s problems, largely writing her off as a liar or mentally unstable. A story that underscores the importance of believing one’s patients.
- “The Bee Sting” (Huyler, p139)
 - An allergic reaction to a medication sends a patient into critical condition. A doctor is terrified as he watches if the patient will live. Should the doctor have asked more questions before giving the medication?

Mental Disturbances/Mental Illness

- “Beyond the Lock” by Hans Antonneau, MD (Borkan, p46)
 - A story about a delusional woman with a persistent, irrational fear. At the finale of the story the reader is let in on the cause of her condition, which allows for some empathy and understanding.
- “Black Bag” (Huyler, p23)
 - Two parallel stories about a medical student who had possibly murdered his roommate in a state of delusion and lack of sleep, and a renowned professor who has a manic episode. This story illustrates how environmental conditions may drive people into insanity, even if only for a day.

OB/GYN

- "The Reward" by L. Stewart Massad, MD (Young, p74)
 - A short story about a tired doctor delivering a girl and forgetting everything in the process.
- "She Laughed" by Perle Feldman, MD (Borkan, p107)
 - Funny, warm story about a young Chinese woman giving birth and the unusual things that transpire. Many themes touched: patient-doctor trust, cultural differences, respect for culture.
- "Unresolved Grief" by Walter W. Rosser, MD (Borkan, p179)
 - An interesting story of a sixty-nine year old woman having pseudocyesis – false pregnancy. The doctor delves deeper to discover she was forced to give away her 5 children for adoption. Could this be a physical manifestation of an emotional memory?
- "Women in a Hot Tub" by Emily Ferrara, MD (Ferrara, p60)
 - A poem describing several different women getting into a hot tub. Focus is placed on their bodies, which are all very different.

Organ Transplants/Donations

- "A Simple Act" by Reg Green (Young, p140)
 - A beautiful, touching story about the tragedy of one young boy and his family's decision to donate his organs, which saves and prolongs many lives. A story of renewal, healing, and commitment to kindness against all odds.

Patient-Doctor Trust

- "The Man Who Didn't Know He Had Cancer" by Adria Burrows, MD (Young, p233)
 - A story of a family keeping the diagnosis from the patient and a doctor's tricky navigation between family and patient.
- "Message" (White, p37)
 - A poem about an incident in which a man is treated badly and laughed at by surgeons, before they know who he is. A violation of patient-doctor trust.
- "Pandora" (White, p47)
 - A sad, beautiful poem about a dying man and his bond with a second year student.
- "The Lie" by Lawrence Grouse, MD (Coles, p39)
 - This story is about a girl who is in critical condition and asks the doctor if she will definitely make it. The doctor is caught between telling her the truth and lying, to soothe her worries. This story explores how honest should physicians be when their honesty may play a part in a patient's recovery.

Patient's Wishes vs. Doctor's Wishes

- "The Alternative Cancer Patient" by Stanley G. Smith, MD (Borkan, p60)

- A patient wishes to use alternative methods for therapy; a doctor respects his decision and continues to monitor his health.
- “Power” (Huyler, p113)
 - A patient does not want a procedure done, but a doctor forces it despite the objections, saving the patient’s life.
- “Mr. Jones Needs to Be DNR’ed” by Kurt C. Stange, MD (Borkan, p165)
 - A story about the miscommunication between a patient’s wife and the doctors regarding the meaning of DNR. Touches on subjects of: communication and patient-doctor trust.

Patients’ Perspectives

- “Storm Warming” by Angelee Deodhar (DasGupta, p 34)
 - A haibun (a combination of brief prose and embedded haiku) capturing a patient’s fear from a ‘storm’ inside her chest.
- “My So-Called Lungs” by Laura Rothenberg (DasGupta, p39)
 - An absolutely wonderful, insightful, personal account of a young woman living with Cystic Fibrosis. Incredibly real, humbling, and honest. A must-read for anyone hoping to understand CF’s impact on the lives of their patients.
- “Stereotactic Biopsy” by Amy Haddad (DasGupta, p74)
 - An honest, touching poem about a woman’s experience during a biopsy.
- “What If They Said?” by Amy Haddad (DasGupta, p76)
 - A poignant, potent poem about the losses that take place during the hurried race to save a life from cancer, above all else.
- “Pathology Report” by Veneta Masson (DasGupta, p87)
 - A unique poem that reads both as a straightforward pathology report and as a humane interpretation of what report really tells.
- “I’ll Take Care of It” by Jan Feldman (DasGupta, p88)
 - A woman’s account of a doctor ‘curing’ her seizures, while taking away her identity with side effects of medications. A successful treatment?
- “Hair Matters” by Regina A. Arnold (DasGupta, p127)
 - A touching short story of a woman’s account of losing her hair during chemotherapy treatment. A theme of “making others uncomfortable” with her baldness emerges.
- “Remembering Dan: Excerpts from My Journal” by Joan Milano (DasGupta, p168)
 - A mother’s account of her son’s dying due to Ewing’s sarcoma.
- “The X-Ray Waiting Room in the Hospital” by Randall Jarrell (Reynolds, p154)
 - A poem about a patient waiting to get his X-Ray. A powerful poem that finds humanity in the patients’ being stripped of theirs together.
- “A Day in the Death” by Miller Williams (Reynolds, p261)

- A poem about wanting to finally die. Despite its main theme, the poem is not heavy or sad, but rather thoughtful and even at times humorous.
- “The Woman Who Could Not Live With Her Faulty Heart” by Margaret Atwood (Reynolds, p314)
 - A poem about a woman living with a chronic heart condition.
- “Good News” by Jack Coulehan (Reynolds, p322)
 - A poem about a patient finding out he is dying of cancer juxtaposed with his reading happy news from the morning paper.
- “Medicine” by Alice Walker (Reynolds, p323)
 - A beautiful poem about a grandmother taking care of the grandfather, as he is dying.

PTSD

- “Remembered Pain” by Robert S. McKelvey, MD (Young, p135)
 - A young physician expresses doubts over the ability of traumatic events to hold power over people many years after their happenings. An older doctor recollects his own experience in South Vietnam, and illustrates to the reader the incredible power of old pains.
- “Newfound Lands” by Ann C. Macaulay, MD (Borkan, p44)
 - A story about emotional trauma emerging as chest pain. The importance of taking a full history.

Professional development

- “First Day” by Robert Murphy (Young, p2)
 - A student's first day during clerkship begins with his feeling incompetent, but one patient encounter restores confidence and hope.
- “The Intern's Vein” Jordan Smoller, MD (Young, p18)
 - Is it important to listen to patients? An intern is intensely focused on a medical procedure and largely ignores what the patient is telling him. But as she concludes her story, something changes for the intern.
- “Shreds of a Flowered Shirt” by Emily R. Transue (Young, p31)
 - A very powerful story of a 3rd year student's first encounter with death. The student struggles with the routine sterility of hospital death juxtaposed with the fragile humanity of life. A beautiful story.
- “Suggestions for Becoming a Positive Deviant” by Atul Gawande, MD (Gawande)
 - Powerful essay written in a simple, often humorous, and unquestionably deep manner in which Dr. Gawande gives sincere, good advice on how to become an excellent doctor, advice that is often glossed over in medical school.
- “My Body, My Self” by C. Sebastian (DasGupta, p 224)
 - A medical student is diagnosed with MS; here is her account of her frustration with accepting and living with her condition.

- “Invasions” by Perri Klass, MD (Reynolds, p368)
 - A wonderful, powerful story about respecting patients and the almost-magical privilege of physicians to deeply, quickly, and personally enter into their patients’ lives. Truly a wonderful story for all medical professionals.
- “From the Heart” by Rachel Naomi Remen, MD (Coles, p91)
 - This eye-opening short story details an event in a young woman’s medical school education. The event is the sudden passing of a classmate. A while after his passing, his heart is examined by his fellow medical students. No one shows an emotional reaction. This story touches on themes such as: professional masks, emotional detachment, and personal-professional boundaries. A valuable read for anyone in the medical profession.

Saving Lives

- “Needle” (Huyler, p49)
 - A random decision to get an X-Ray reveals the reason for a man’s demise, and thus offers an urgent way to save his life. This story illustrates the importance of timely tests and decisions to help with diagnosis.

Surgery

- “Stereotactic Biopsy” by Amy Haddad (DasGupta, p74)
 - An honest, touching poem about a woman’s experience during a biopsy.
- “Message” (White, p37)
 - A poem about an incident in which a man is treated badly and laughed at by surgeons, before they know who he is. A violation of patient-doctor trust.

Too Much Treatment?

- “The Little Picture” by Barry Gelman, MD (Young, 206)
 - A story about a young girl AIDS patient who shows so much promise, despite her poor prognosis. A doctor struggles with how much treatment is too much.
- “Dying to Live” by Eric G. Anderson, MD (Young, p179)
 - A touching story about a patient’s fervent will to live, despite his grim prognosis. Touches on themes: fear of death, family’s wishes vs. patient’s wishes, and how much treatment is too much.
- “The Venetian Blinds” by Lee Litvinas (Young, p302)
 - A very ill patient wishes to die, while the medical team is marveling at his progress. Who should have the final say?

Tragedy

- “Deathbeds” (White, p7)
 - A very sad, short poem about 10 different people dying.

- “Sunday Morning” (Huyler, p41)
 - A story of two boys in a horrible accident brought to the ED. The father of one stands in as the father of the other.
- “Misery” by Anton Chekhov (Reynolds, p48)
 - A story of one man’s misery upon the death of his son and his intense need for someone to hear his story. This story beautifully shows the needs of family members after a tragic death.
- “Letters from the Rehabilitation Institute” by Lucia Cordell Getsi (Coles, p171)
 - Very sad poem about the pediatric rehabilitation ward, describing children’s accidents, many of which permanently change the children’s lives. This poem could be used in discussions of preventing burnout, dealing with tragedy, and consoling families.
- “Mother’s Lament” by Emily Ferrara, MD (Ferrara, p 14)
 - A heartbreaking, honest poem about a mother examining her son’s body after his death.
- “Adam Speaks” by Emily Ferrara, MD (Ferrara, p16)
 - A poem written by a mother from the perspective of her deceased son. Very powerful and touching.
- “Bad News in the ER” by Emily Ferrara, MD (Ferrara, p18)
 - A poem about a mother hearing of her son’s death from the ER physicians.

Violence

- “Generation” (White, p12)
 - A poem illustrating generational poverty and gun injury.

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