



Humor and Cancer

Many of us feel awkward in joking in front of terminally ill patients. Many may even consider it inappropriate or insensitive. However, it has been known scientifically that the best thing you can do to your friends is to provide a humorous environment and let them "forget" about their condition. Sitting and feeling sorry for their condition will not help them much.

Dr. Michael B. Van Scoy-Morhser, an oncologist in California says that "one characteristic of the cancer patient who does well is the ability to often put cancer in the background for period of time." TV journalist Linda Ellerbee wrote about some of her cancer experiences and of being bald in the January 1993 edition of McCall's: "That summer I bought some breast prostheses to use while swimming. Instead of fastening them to my skin with Velcro as the directions instructed, I simply inserted the prostheses into my bathing suit. When I came out of the water, one had migrated around to my back! Now, how can you not laugh at such a thing? Either you laugh or you cry your eyes out... it's something I've tried to teach my kids as well. When my 23-year-old daughter saw me with my bald head and no breast, she said, "You look just like a Buddha without the wisdom", and we both howled. I think we are never braver than when we stand tall and look into the sun and laugh. Laughter may be a form of courage."

In his book "Intoxicated by My Illness," Anatole Broyard wrote about the final months of this life after he was diagnosed with prostate cancer. He stated that "Illness is primarily a drama, and it should be possible to enjoy it as well as to suffer it.... Illness," after all, "is not all tragedy. Much of it is funny."

I. COMPREHENSION : (15 points)

A- Read the text carefully and answer the following questions (5 pts)

- 1- What's the best thing you can do to an ill person?
- 2- What did Linda Ellerbee do in the swimming pool?
- 3- What did her daughter tell her?
- 4- What was Anatole Broyard diagnosed with?
- 5- How did he react to his disease?

B- Decide whether the following statements are true or false. Justify your answers (5 pts)

- 1- Joking with ill people is inappropriate.
- 2- When you visit ill people you have to show that you are sorry for their conditions.
- 3- Linda Ellerbee wrote about one of her parent's experience with cancer.
- 4- Linda's daughter said that she likes Buddha.
- 5- Anatole Broyard said in his book that we should be positive with our illnesses.

C- Find in the text words that mean the same as : (5 pts)

- 1- Incurably:
- 2- Hairless:
- 3- Tying:
- 4- Knowledge and intelligence:
- 5- Disease:



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Date: 03/05/2013

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Class:
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II. Language : (15 points)

A- Complete the sentences with the correct form of the phrasal verbs in the box : (2,5 pts)

Bump into = meet somebody you know unexpectedly
Look forward to = expect something to happen because you think you will enjoy it
Put somebody through = connect somebody by telephone
Turn out = result in a particular way
Stand by = support somebody who is in a difficult situation

- 1- I feel so tired that I _____ the summer holidays.
- 2- Ms Nichols _____ her husband when he lost his job at the factory.
- 3- You won't believe who I _____ the other day! Mrs. Davis, my primary school teacher.
- 4- Hang on a second, please! I _____ to the manager.
- 5- Fiona's party last week _____ to be a complete disaster.

B- Complete the text using : will have to / had to / ought / shouldn't / should (2,5 pts)

A reporter asked Michael to tell the readers what they _____ to do in order to follow the champion's footsteps. First of all, you _____ bear in mind that success doesn't come easy and you _____ train hard. "When I was still at school, I wake up _____ early in the morning to train and I rushed off to school. After school, I trained some more, says Michael. At the same time, however, you _____ neglect your studies.

C- Find the opposites of the verbs below, use the verbs given : lose / finish / agree / pick up / forget (2,5 pts)

- 1- Start, begin ≠ _____
- 2- Win ≠ _____
- 3- Remember ≠ _____
- 4- Drop ≠ _____
- 5- Disagree ≠ _____



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D- Re-write the sentences with the words given : (6 pts)

- 1- Carla is less talented than Sophie.
Sophie
- 2- The more you eat, the fatter you will get.
If
- 3- "Sign my poster, please!" Penny begged the singer.
Penny
- 4- People shouldn't throw rubbish in the sea.
Rubbish
- 5- "What will you do next summer, Jill?" Peter wanted to know.
Peter wanted to know
- 6- I left the office, and then I realized my briefcase was still on my desk.
After

E- You learnt that your best friend has become a drug-addict. Give him a piece of advice (1pt)

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F- What does the following sentence express? (1/2 pt)

- Agreement?
- Opinion?
- Advice?

↓ Personally speaking, I think that women should space out their pregnancies.