

TEACHER'S GUIDE

SYNOPSIS

In *Death Be Not Proud*, John Gunther recounts his son's courageous battle against a murderous brain tumor. This memoir describes those fifteen months while Johnny is dying, yet its tone is not that of a dirge, but rather a tribute to and formula for a keen awareness of life.

The short foreword, which barely outlines the events of Johnny's life prior to his illness, is intended to acquaint the reader with the character, personality and spirit which will sustain Johnny throughout the ordeal. Born in Paris on November 4, 1929, Johnny lives in Vienna and London before coming to the United States at the age of seven. He attends public schools in Connecticut and New York City and is enrolled in Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts when he becomes ill in March of 1946.

While still very young, Johnny learns to paint and to play the violin, but his interest soon turns to composition and music theory instead. He loves to play chess and is deeply involved in chemical experimentation for which purpose he maintains two laboratories. John Gunther is quick to point out that even though his son's I.Q. is above the level of genius, Johnny is not a child prodigy. His grades are not always excellent because he likes to procrastinate. Both his penmanship and his room could be neater and he lacks athletic prowess. Gunther describes his son as intelligent, sensitive, generous, introspective, and somewhat shy.

The first signals of Johnny's tumor, an attack of eye strain and complaints of a stiff neck, elude Dr. Traeger, the family physician, who gives Johnny a clean bill of health at his annual checkup in March in 1946. In April, after a case of infantile paralysis at Deerfield, Johnny complains again of a stiff neck. As a precaution, Dr. Johnson, the academy's doctor, sends Johnny for a metabolism test. It is on the way to this test that the nurse notices Johnny's equilibrium problem. Via a telephone call from Dr. Hahn, a neurologist whom Dr. Johnson called for consultation, John Gunther is brusquely informed that his son probably has a brain tumor.

Now begins the agonizing series of doctors, tests, operations, X-rays, treatments and diets that are to be the remainder of Johnny's life. On April 26, 1946, Dr. Tracy Putnam, Professor of Neurology and Neurological

Surgery at Columbia University, who is called to direct the diagnostic tests, attempts to remove the tumor by an operation which lasts five hours and ten minutes. Putnam is able to remove only half of the orange-sized tumor. Because the tumor is an astroblastoma, one which develops transformations, the skull is left open, covered only by a flap of scalp in order to allow the outward growth of the tumor and prevent further brain damage. During the post-operative period, Johnny is not aware of the seriousness of his condition. He writes a letter about one of his theories to Dr. Albert Einstein who is kind enough to answer him. He also writes his "Unbeliever's Prayer" and is quite anxious to return to Deerfield.

The tumor, carefully monitored by specialists, undergoes glioblastomatous transformation which indicates that it is probably fatal. On May 25th, Dr. Putnam begins X-ray therapy which has to be limited due to the vulnerability of the scalp flap. Now Johnny begins to suspect cancer and tells his father: "I have so much to do. And there is so little time."

Johnny is discharged from the Neurological Institute on June 1st but must return to the hospital daily for X-rays until June 20th. Then he is permitted to convalesce at the Gunther's country house in Madison, Connecticut. Here he reads avidly, discusses his father's chapters of *Inside U.S.A.*, experiments to liquefy ammonia, examines philosophies and poetry with his mother, attends plays in New York City and visits with school friends. He tries to compensate for the increasing weakness of his left leg. Meanwhile, the bump on his head continues to grow and, on July 17th begins to leak pus. Dr. Wilder Penfield, an internationally reputed brain surgeon from Montreal, determines that the bump is a malignant glioma and is certainly fatal. Another operation would cause blindness so it is not undertaken.

Now both John and Frances Gunther begin a desperate search for new doctors and new methods of treatment. In the *Sunday Times*, they find an article which states that mustard gas, HN₂, has been found to kill cells with abnormally fast growth rates. With difficulty, they convince the eminent specialists, who are somewhat resistant to unproven treatments, to invite Dr. Joseph Burchenal to administer the first mustard dose on August

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1st. Though these injections cause pain and bruises at first, Johnny's vitality and strength seem to improve.

In late August, however, the now larger bump begins to leak again and the Gunthers revive their search for new remedies. They encounter a Dr. Max Gerson, who treats cancers and other diseases by means of a saltless, fatless and almost proteinless diet. His theory, which has had some success, proposes that, if completely purified chemically, the body can cure its own ills. At Dr. Gerson's nursing home, Johnny lives on fruits, vegetables, vitamins, minerals and complete rest. Because Johnny's general health and strength are improved, Dr. Gerson declares him saved. The neurological specialists, on the other hand, noting the persistent growth of the bulge, suggest another operation in December. Without warning, the tumor opens by itself and Dr. Mount evacuates a full cup of sterile fluids. The sterile abscess and the lack of papilledema lead the doctors to conclude that the tumor has been arrested. The bump disappears.

During the happy period that follows Johnny's apparently miraculous recovery, he studies with tutors and takes examinations to complete enough credits to graduate from Deerfield with his class. He spends Christmas at home and is discharged from the hospital on January 12, 1946. He even renews a former friendship with Mary, who, according to Johnny, sends his temperature above normal for three days.

Brief spells of amnesia in February and the relentless growth of the bulge dispel all hopes of recovery. Even Johnny questions: "If it comes out again, will it be for the last time?" In spite of frequent trips to the Neurological Institute he studies feverishly for he is now obsessed with graduation and entering Harvard University in the fall. On April 30th, Johnny successfully completes the College Board Exams only to be scheduled for surgery the following day. During this operation, Dr. Mount descends eleven centimeters into the brain yet never reaches healthy tissue. It is decided that since nothing more can be done medically Johnny should be allowed to do as he wishes and to die happy. The stringent Gerson diet is suspended and Johnny returns home.

The culmination and reward for his courageous struggle to keep up with his studies against all the obstacles of his illness comes on May 25th, when Mr. Boyden, the Deerfield headmaster, informs the Gunthers that Johnny has completed the requirements for graduation. Although his left side is extremely weak now and his vision poor, Johnny participates in all the graduation activities including a bull session with the headmaster, a banquet and an evening serenade for the Boydens. On June 4th, Mr. Flynt, the President of the Deerfield Board of Trustees, tries to place the diploma in Johnny's right hand. Still unwilling to

surrender to the tumor, Johnny transfers the scroll to his weak left hand and receives the applause of his classmates and their parents.

Though he succeeds in getting his diploma, the tumor does not relent. More doctors, more X-rays, more mustard treatments are tried but to no avail. On June 30th, the glioma erodes a blood vessel and Johnny dies of cerebral hemorrhage.

It is evident through Johnny's letters and diary in Part II that he has an extraordinary thirst for knowledge and a gentle and sensitive spirit which instead of being subdued by his illness become even more pronounced. Throughout his ordeal, he is more concerned with his parents' suffering than with his own death. The tenacity with which he studies, takes examinations, conducts his experiments and clings to life demonstrate that Johnny's struggle is not simply for existence but for control and use of his intellect.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Gunther (1901-1970) was born in Chicago, Illinois, August 30, 1901. After receiving his Ph.D. from University of Chicago in 1922, Gunther worked for the *Chicago Daily News* as a reporter. He later became a correspondent in Europe covering the outbreak of the war in London during 1941.

Ten of Gunther's books have become Book-of-the-Month Club selections.

CRITIC'S CORNER

Death Be Not Proud is a biographical story of John Gunther's brave young son, who died at the age of seventeen. Never has there been a more intense tale of courage, intelligence, and unselfishness as *Death Be Not Proud*. This book gives a triumphant view of human heroism in which the hero is truly heroic. To read *Death Be Not Proud* is to grasp the meaning of man's power to defy Death's pain, to be filled with confidence and emptied of despair.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To identify the memoir as a literary form
2. To study the development of a nonfictional character
3. To examine the hero's attitude toward death
4. To discuss the importance of fortitude in combating personal tragedy
5. To recognize the therapeutic value of humor
6. To consider the importance of compassion in human relationships

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SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To point out the subjectivity of John Gunther's personal involvement in the events of the memoir
2. To discover how Gunther informs the reader about Johnny's behavior, attitudes and feelings
3. To recognize Johnny's acceptance of his illness and his determination to continue productive life in spite of it
4. To trace the gradual awareness of the inevitability of death and its influence on Johnny
5. To discuss instances of compassion toward Johnny
6. To note the instances of lack of compassion
7. To enumerate the occasions when Johnny shows compassion toward his parents or others
8. To cite some of Johnny's ironic or humorous comments and to point out how they help relieve tension

MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences or thought units that have a particular meaning in the story. Explain the meaning each has in this book. Page numbers are given so that you can note the context from which the item is taken.

1. sic (p. 8, p. 94)
(is used several times to show an error in a quoted passage and that the error is reproduced purposely.)
2. glio - glioma (p. 35, p. 47)
(glio means glue and is a prefix to denote a type of cancer that is fatal. The word prepares the reader for the eventual death of Johnny. Such a clue is called foreshadowing.)
3. andromeda nebulae (p. 34)
(the Milky Way Galaxy - the author makes the point that although Johnny was exceptionally knowledgeable in science, he knew relatively little about medicine and his disease in particular.)
4. gramophone records (p. 43)
(phonograph records - although Johnny made an intricate file system for his parents' records, he actually kept his personal things in disarray. This apparent contradiction is called Irony and points out that Johnny used his orderly mind only for what he considered important things.)
5. Euthanasia is, of course, forbidden (p. 49)
(causing someone to die more quickly and more painlessly rather than prescribing additional treatment for an incurable disease - mercy killing.)
6. blood vessel nearby was thrombosed (p. 90)
(forming a blood clot - Johnny's tumor was growing around the blood vessels preventing proper blood circulation. Gunther wants to let the reader know exactly what was happening to Johnny.)
7. cerebral hemorrhage (p. 100)
(cerebral=upper brain + hemorrhage=breakage of blood vessel - the tumor's growth caused a blood vessel to break in the upper brain, thus causing death. Commonly called a stroke. The author is emphasizing the destructiveness of the disease.)

8. I slept like an octopus. (p. 94)
(Cryptic, sarcastic, or humorous remark by Johnny in response to the nurse's question, "How well did you sleep?" Johnny often said unusual or witty things to see what the listener would do. The nurse was probably bewildered by the remark. Or if taken literally, Johnny didn't sleep well at all. Perhaps in his restlessness, his arms and legs were turning about like an octopus' tentacles.)
9. I'm not so much interested in the spectacular nature of my recovery as in the exact seriousness of my complaint. (p. 47)
(Another intelligent, witty remark by Johnny who is more interested in knowing what is exactly wrong with him than in finding out why he has suddenly gotten better. The statement reinforces the idea that Johnny possessed a very probing mind.)
10. Schools in this country make you callous and cynical. (p. 104)

(Said by Johnny because he felt his own personal scientific experiments and private tutoring had given him a better education than Deerfield did. He objected to the idea of spending time in a classroom when he already knew and mastered the material. A regular classroom situation simply held him back. Discussion: Does Johnny have a valid criticism, that is should a student be forced to take a whole year of, let's say math, when he has already grasped the material in one semester.)

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

1. What is the first sign of Johnny's illness?
(a stiff neck)
2. Give a brief character sketch of Johnny.
(a tall, thin, blue eyed, blond haired, considerate, intelligent boy whose interests included music, atomic physics, and chess.)
3. What details show the idea that Johnny tries to overcome his physical deterioration?
 1. Squeezed a rubber ball to regain control of the muscles in his left hand.
 2. Took walks sometimes as long as half mile to strengthen his legs. p. 77
 3. He hated to be helped. p. 106
 4. Devised a "new" way to hold a fork.)
4. Give evidence to support Johnny's consideration of others, even to the point of enduring suffering, inconvenience, or disappointment without burdening others.
 1. disappointed in not going back to Deerfield, but did not complain. p. 67

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2. *worried about how his parents might take his illness. p. 4*
3. *going to graduation although physically painful pp. 97-100*
4. *would hesitate to ask his friends in to see him for fear they would be bored. p. 44)*
5. What are some of the effects of the tumor?
 1. *partial amnesia p. 80*
 2. *loss of muscular control p. 97*
 3. *unsteady walk p. 100*
 4. *tiredness p. 64*
 5. *distorted vision pp. 46, 48*
 6. *bruises p. 57*
 7. *strain p. 73)*
6. How does Johnny show persistence and perseverance in his studies?

(By completing the requirements for his high school diploma through working independently and through private tutors. Even the actual physical effort of walking in his graduation ceremonies exemplified his drive and determination. Also, since one of his goals was to go to Harvard, Johnny worked diligently to achieve that end through completing the grueling entrance examination.)
7. What heroic qualities make Johnny a great human being?

(Gunther's main idea about his son was that Johnny was an exceptional person. This idea is supported by the details of Johnny's efforts to overcome his physical deterioration and his dedication to knowledge. Students should be encouraged to list various other qualities and find specific examples illustrating the qualities mentioned.)
8. How do Johnny's parents give their son a philosophy of life?

(One philosophic principle that Johnny followed was that time was precious and that life should be lived to its fullest. Mr. and Mrs. Gunther encouraged their son to partake in various activities — from making experiments in atomic physics to drawing pictures. What ever interested the boy also became interesting [although sometimes not understandable] to the parents. From his father, John learned hard work and from his mother, learned compassion and understanding. Of particular interest is Johnny's prayer on p. 37. It should be brought to the students' attention that Johnny was not a religious person in the sense of belonging to an organized church and, that he did not adhere to a dogmatic faith. He was, nevertheless, a very philosophic person, that is, a person who asked some very basic questions about himself and reality and attempted to answer them through reason. His parents encouraged this rational approach to life's probing questions.)
9. Explain Johnny's parents' reaction to their son's illness and eventual death.

(Upon first glance one recalls how Johnny's parents

searched for the best doctors and treatment available. But beyond this, one is impressed by the remarkable courage and hope displayed by the parents. They refused to accept defeat and even when death did finally come to John, they chose to treasure those brief seventeen years rather than to be bitter and hateful. The students should understand however, that Mr. and Mrs. Gunther did feel a deep sadness over the loss of their son. But this sadness blossomed not into despair, but into the conviction that Johnny did live a brief, but fruitful life, and this was a source of consolation for them.)

10. What is the significance of the title, *Death Be Not Proud*?

(This line from one of John Donne's poems proclaims John Gunther's victory over the hurt of death. Gunther realizes that in Johnny's case — death was not the greatest catastrophe because it hadn't really ended anything. Instead, death was just another doorway to something new — a greater appreciation of Johnny's life. Furthermore, Johnny lived on in the hearts of his parents. In another sense, death should not be proud — it should be ashamed for cutting short the life of a boy who was so filled with promise.

A variety of answers would be acceptable provided the student can justify his opinion.)

11. After reading this story write a short story on how you would conduct yourself around someone suffering from an incurable disease.

ALTERNATIVES FOR STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

1. In order of importance, compile a list of things you would want to do if you were to die in fifteen months.
2. Visit the terminal ward of a nearby hospital or cancer home and help make a patient's last days more pleasant by performing some useful task such as reading, playing a game or writing letters for a patient.
3. In small groups of three or four discuss your attitudes about death. What influence should these attitudes have on your way of life?
4. Research the following questions and report your findings to the class: Have any advancements in the treatment of cancer occurred since Johnny's death? Are there still disagreements or controversies over cancer therapy or treatment?
5. Write a short memoir of someone close to you. Choose only a specific part of his life and relate it in a way interesting and instructive to others.
6. Read three poems on death. Do the poets' attitudes coincide with your feelings? Present your findings to the class in a short report or to your teacher in an essay.

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STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Compile a glossary of the medical terms used in this work, supplying definitions clearly understandable by a layman.
2. List all of Johnny's activities and accomplishments during his illness. What are his priorities?
3. In small groups of no more than five, read and discuss John Donne's "Death Be Not Proud." Why does Gunther choose it for the title of his memoir?
4. Assuming Johnny's identity, write a diary entry or a letter to Mary about the following days:
April 30, 1946—the day following the initial operation
September 8, 1946—first day of Gerson diet
December, 1946—Johnny's recovery
June 4, 1947—graduation day
June 29, 1947—the day before his death
5. Discuss Johnny's attitude toward his illness and the treatments by making specific references to the text. Explain how you would react under the same circumstances.
6. Write a eulogy for Johnny's funeral pointing out his most important qualities and attitudes.

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TEST A

Part I: Vocabulary (20 points)

Match each underlined word with its definition listed below. Write the letter of the definition in the space provided.

- ___ 1. Johnny had some sort of "pressure". That was the euphemism the doctors chose to employ.
- ___ 2. The actual surgery is a simple extrication of the alien mass.
- ___ 3. He worked out equations far too abstruse for me.
- ___ 4. Was all this a dismal accident, purely barren and fortuitous?
- ___ 5. It was the result of edema, following the shock of operation.
- ___ 6. The blood vessel nearby was thrombosed.
- ___ 7. He demanded to know if the bump was fluctuant or not.
- ___ 8. There was another tedious wait while Burchenal filled out a prescription.
- ___ 9. All his ineffable niceness seemed to be bursting out of him.
- ___ 10. Marie told me of another colloquy.

- a. growth
- b. by chance
- c. swelling
- d. less painful word
- e. wearisome
- f. speech

- g. conversation
- h. removal
- i. moving
- j. complex
- k. clogged
- l. inexpressible

Part II: True or False (10 points)

In the space provided write **true** if the statement is completely true or write **false** if any part of the statement is false.

- ___ 1. Although Johnny excels early in science and mathematics, he has no artistic abilities.
- ___ 2. Johnny is very precise in his experiments and computations but keeps his room untidy.
- ___ 3. A lack of athletic ability does not concern Johnny because he has so many other interests.
- ___ 4. As a child, Johnny has said that he wishes to do some good for the world.
- ___ 5. The first sign of the tumor is a severe headache.
- ___ 6. Johnny's tumor lies in the right occipital parietal lobe (near the surface) and is the size of an orange.
- ___ 7. After the first operation, Johnny thinks he is blind because his eyes are stuck shut.
- ___ 8. The opening in Johnny's skull is closed by a platinum plate.
- ___ 9. Due to pressure on the optic nerve, Johnny suffers varying degrees of papilledema which causes the weakness of his left leg.
- ___ 10. Johnny spends June of 1946 at the Gunthers' summer house in Deerfield making up missed school work.

Part III: Multiple Choice (30 points)

Complete each of the following sentences with the best response. Indicate your choice by writing the letter of the appropriate response in the space provided.

- ___ 1. In July of 1946, Dr. Penfield diagnoses Johnny's tumor as being a fatal (a) astroblastoma (b) malignant glioma (c) astrocytoma (d) edema.

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Test A continued

- ___ 2. The mustard treatments (a) step up Johnny's vitality (b) result in no appreciable change (c) retard the growth of the tumor (d) lower the white blood count.
- ___ 3. During the summer of 1946, Johnny invents (a) a new alloy (b) an electrical circuit (c) a theory on gravity (d) a new method for the liquefaction of ammonia.
- ___ 4. As another treatment, the Gunthers try Dr. Gerson's diet which (a) is intended to alter the metabolism of the patient to allow the disease to kill itself (b) is highly acclaimed by the medical profession (c) is fed intravenously (d) causes a chemical imbalance which stops the growth of the tumor.
- ___ 5. An example of Johnny's wit is the following statement referring to Gerson's diet (a) "I'm going to write a theme 'On Being a Guinea Pig'." (b) "I think my tumor has gone to my head." (c) "Give father three beefsteaks for an afternoon snack." (d) "(the husks of vegetables were deliberately left there as abrasives to scour the stomach."
- ___ 6. When his father informs him that he cannot return to Deerfield, (a) Johnny breaks down and cries (b) Johnny decides to graduate with his class and make up work with tutors (c) Johnny attends a local school in New York City (d) Johnny is given an honorary diploma from Deerfield Academy.
- ___ 7. The pathologist's report after the evacuation of the tumor indicates that (a) the culture is sterile and the tumor is quiescent (b) Dr. Gerson's treatment has cured Johnny (c) Johnny will die soon (d) another operation is necessary.
- ___ 8. During March the situation worsens because (a) the bulge begins to grow again (b) the papilledema returns (c) Johnny begins to vomit (d) Johnny becomes paralyzed.
- ___ 9. Dr. Penfield of Montreal performs another operation during which (a) all of the tumor is removed (b) a metal plate is inserted in Johnny's skull (c) most of the tumor is removed (d) healthy tissue is never reached.
- ___ 10. On May 25th, Mr. Boyden informs the Gunthers that (a) Johnny is admitted to Harvard (b) Johnny has enough credits to graduate (c) Johnny has passed the College Board exams (d) Johnny cannot graduate with his class.
- ___ 11. Since Johnny's condition deteriorates, the Gunthers decide to (a) repeat all previous treatments (b) find a new doctor (c) bring Johnny home to die in comfort (d) operate again.
- ___ 12. On his last Sunday at home Johnny (a) seems to tire more easily (b) knows he is about to die (c) is more affectionate than usual (d) has an attack of amnesia.
- ___ 13. The ultimate cause of Johnny's death on June 30th is (a) cancer (b) brain tumor (c) papilledema (d) cerebral hemorrhage.
- ___ 14. Johnny espouses two mottos: "Be Aware" and "Patience and Fortitude." They originate from (a) Wilson and Confucius (b) Aristotle and Roosevelt (c) Buddha and LaGuardia (d) Mohamed and Machiavelli.
- ___ 15. Johnny's father believes that a criterion for measuring life is (a) its length (b) its quality and intensity (c) its happiness (d) its problems.

Part IV: Essay Questions (40 points)

- 1. Summarize the medical history of Johnny's fifteen months of illness. How did John Gunther's reputation and economic status help?
- 2. By referring to specific incidents explain Johnny's attitudes and interests during his illness. What do they imply about Johnny?

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TEST B

Part I: Vocabulary (20 points)

Match each underlined word with its definition listed below. Write the letter of the definition in the space provided.

- ___ 1. He had been obliged to spend a great deal of time listening to organized religious exhortation.
- ___ 2. He painted a group of somnolent, placid, herbaceous elephants.
- ___ 3. He wanted to be a sperm whale in some future avatar.
- ___ 4. He needed a modicum of guidance.
- ___ 5. The scalp defect is the result of necrosis.
- ___ 6. A brain tumor never metastasizes.
- ___ 7. I had no idea of his eminence.
- ___ 8. He shouldn't get bogged down in such minutiae.
- ___ 9. His bandage made his pallor even more striking.
- ___ 10. Inexorably, that damned murderous bump was getting bigger.

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| a. importance | g. spreads to other organs |
| b. drowsy | h. incarnation |
| c. nervousness | i. lack of color |
| d. detail | j. small amount |
| e. unyieldingly | k. tissue decay |
| f. earnest pleading | l. dogma |

Part II: True or False (10 points)

In the space provided write **true** if the statement is completely true or write **false** if any part of the statement is false.

- ___ 1. The outstanding qualities of Johnny's character are generosity, consideration, intelligence and wit.
- ___ 2. Johnny documents his discovery of the world by painting savage tigers and placid landscapes.
- ___ 3. His good grades are the result of hard work, not a high I.Q.
- ___ 4. Mr. Gunther is informed of Johnny's tumor by the gentle Dr. Putnam.
- ___ 5. Dr. Putnam removes the entire tumor during the first operation.
- ___ 6. Johnny discusses many abstract subjects with his mother, such as morality and philosophy.
- ___ 7. During his son's illness Mr. Gunther does extensive research on brain tumors and consults many specialists.
- ___ 8. It is when the X-ray treatments start that Johnny suspects he has cancer.
- ___ 9. Dr. Penfield recommends an injection of mustard to try to kill the growing tumor.
- ___ 10. When Dr. Mount evacuates the abscess in Johnny's tumor, all think that he will die shortly.

Part III: Multiple Choice (30 points)

Complete each of the following sentences with the best response. Indicate your choice by writing the letter of the appropriate response in the space provided.

- ___ 1. The X-ray treatment has to be discontinued because (a) it is too painful (b) it makes the tumor grow faster (c) it deteriorates the skin flap covering the bulge (d) it is too expensive.

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Test B continued

- ___ 2. Johnny's head has to be bandaged daily because (a) the bump is leaking pus (b) the bandages become soiled (c) it prevents injury (d) it relieves the pressure.
- ___ 3. Dr. Gerson directs a clinic in which (a) he attempts to arrest cancer by diet therapy (b) he uses laetrile to help cancer patients (c) terminal cancer patients are comforted (d) cancer research is conducted.
- ___ 4. While at Gerson's clinic Johnny misses most (a) his laboratory (b) Mary (c) steak (d) his books.
- ___ 5. In an attempt to understand the reason for Johnny's illness, Gunther concludes that (a) it is a punishment sent by God (b) it is hereditary (c) it is unfair (d) it is symbolic of the death struggle between reason and brute force.
- ___ 6. When the bump develops two tomato-like bulges in spite of Dr. Gerson's treatment, another operation is scheduled, but (a) the bulge is so hard that Putnam cannot penetrate it (b) X-rays are used instead (c) Johnny is too weak for an operation at this time (d) the bulge opens spontaneously.
- ___ 7. Johnny's reprieve of only two months is terminated when (a) the papilledema returns (b) he falls and breaks open the flap (c) he suffers short periods of amnesia (d) he becomes blind.
- ___ 8. The last operation makes it eminently clear that (a) Dr. Gerson's treatment is dangerous (b) the X-rays have stopped the tumor (c) the tumor is growing rapidly (d) more mustard is needed.
- ___ 9. Against increasingly worsening odds, (a) Johnny insists on remaining at home (b) Johnny works toward graduating with his class and entering Harvard in the fall (c) Johnny performs chemical experiments hoping to invent something before he dies (d) Johnny writes a diary to document his illness.
- ___ 10. June 4th is a very important day in Johnny's short life because (a) he is admitted to Harvard (b) Dr. Mount successfully evacuates the tumor (c) Mary comes to visit Johnny (d) he graduates from Deerfield with his class.
- ___ 11. Because Johnny's scalp is stronger after Mount's operation, (a) the bump does not grow anymore (b) X-rays are again possible (c) he does not need a cranial plate (d) he no longer has to have his head bandaged.
- ___ 12. On June 30th, (a) Johnny suffers extreme headaches and vomiting and dies of cerebral hemorrhage (b) Johnny dies in his sleep (c) Johnny becomes completely blind and dies (d) Johnny becomes paralyzed.
- ___ 13. Johnny's attitude toward his illness is best described as (a) melancholic and self-pitying (b) fearful and pessimistic (c) patient and productive (d) callous and cynical.
- ___ 14. "Every telephone needs a bed beside it," is an example of (a) Johnny's wit (b) Putnam's concern for Johnny's comfort (c) Frances Gunther's humor (d) John Gunther's writing.
- ___ 15. For Frances Gunther the lesson of Johnny's ordeal is (a) to fight for cancer research (b) to love Johnny more by loving life (c) to rely on religion for comfort (d) to offer a scholarship in Johnny's name.

Part IV: Essay Questions (40 points)

1. Relate those incidents from Johnny's life which you consider most poignant. Are there any positive values to be gained from Johnny's fight against death?
2. Describe the relationship between Johnny and his mother. Does it differ from the rapport he has with his father? Does his illness affect these relationships? Support your opinions with references to the memoir.

DEATH BE NOT PROUD

TEST ANSWERS A

Part I: Vocabulary (20 points)

1. D
2. H
3. J
4. B
5. C
6. K
7. I
8. E
9. L
10. G

Part II: True or False (10 points)

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. False
6. True
7. True
8. False
9. False
10. False

Part III: Multiple Choice (30 points)

1. B
2. A
3. D
4. A
5. D
6. B
7. A
8. A
9. D
10. B
11. A
12. C
13. D
14. C
15. B

TEST ANSWERS B

Part I: Vocabulary (20 points)

1. F
2. B
3. H
4. J
5. K
6. G
7. A
8. D
9. I
10. E

Part II: True or False (10 points)

1. True
2. True
3. False
4. False
5. False
6. True
7. True
8. True
9. False
10. False

Part III: Multiple Choice (30 Points)

1. C
2. A
3. A
4. C
5. D
6. D
7. C
8. C
9. B
10. D
11. B
12. A
13. C
14. A
15. B

DEATH BE NOT PROUD

TEACHING NOTES



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