

Author: Trisha Paul, 2014

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WRITING ACTIVITY

The following questions were provided to encourage the narrative expressions included in this book.

1. Diagnosis

What was it like to be diagnosed?

How did you feel when you were diagnosed?

How did you tell your friends about your diagnosis?

2. Symptoms

What is cancer?

What does cancer look like?

What do you like or not like about your cancer?

How does cancer make you feel?

3. Hospital

Why did you come to the hospital?

What do you like about being in the hospital?

What don't you like about being in the hospital?

What do you do when you are in the hospital?

4. Treatment

What is being done to treat the cancer?

How does treatment make you feel?

What are some things that you like about being treated?

What are some things that you don't like about being treated?

How did you keep your spirits up during treatment?

5. Advice

If cancer was a person, what would you say or do to cancer?

What advice would you give to a child who has just been diagnosed with cancer?

What kind of things would you want the adults in your life (doctors, nurses, parents, etc.) to know about what it's like to have cancer?

6. Reflections

Has cancer changed your life? If so, how?

Anything else you would like to share about your story of the cancer experience?

TELL YOUR STORY

Are you interested in sharing your experiences with cancer? By telling your story, you can help health professionals, parents, and others to better understand what it is like to have cancer. Sharing your story may also help other children and teens with cancer like you.

We are looking for children, teens, and young adults with cancer to submit their personal story for future publications of *Chronicling Childhood Cancer: A Collection of Personal Stories by Children and Teens with Cancer*.

If you are interested in this potential opportunity to share your story, please contact the editor:

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ABOUT THE EDITOR

Trisha Paul is a first year medical student at the University of Michigan Medical School. She has been volunteering with pediatric oncology patients at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital for five years, and she aspires to become a pediatric oncologist. She received a B.S. in English with Honors along with minors in Biochemistry and Medical Anthropology from the University of Michigan. Trisha writes about her experiences in literature and medicine at illnessnarratives.com.