

Nancy Chu

The piece I want you to check is my Response Essay. This essay tied with Roxanne's memory book, but is more well-written than creative. I want you to comment on my opinions of what different parts of the passage meant to me. ✓

Chu

Death Be Not Proud Scoring Rubric: Choice Two - Response Essay

<i>Good.</i> Depth of Response	True Honors Quality essay is well developed with insightful & complete exploration of the topics	Acceptable Quality essay is adequately developed with rational and largely complete exploration of the topics	Not Ready for Honors essay is notably underdeveloped marked by a lack of true insight or exploration of topics
<i>Superior</i> Sophistication of Thought & Organization	True Honors Quality essay demonstrates true reflection in response to text; organization creates a coherent central impression	Acceptable Quality essay demonstrates true reflection in response to the text but may have lapses in coherence &/or central impression	Not Ready for Honors essay lacks a sense of true emotional response to the text &/or does not create a coherent central impression
Professional Presentation grammar, style, mechanics, MLA	True Honors Quality virtually flawless & stylistically sophisticated	Acceptable Quality only minor errors; ordinary style	Not Ready for Honors irresponsibly edited; weak or inappropriate style
Your Score: <u>47</u> Mock Score: <u>47</u>			
Comments: <i>Excellent style - esp in sentence style.</i>			

Superb expression of your feelings in a mature, intelligent reaction to the book and its text.

John Gunther's Death Be Not Proud is a memoir about a Johnny's struggle against a brain tumor to stay alive. Gunther, his father, describes Johnny's disease as: *A primitive to-the-death struggle of reason against violence, reason against disruption, reason against brute unthinking force - this was what went on in Johnny's head. What he was fighting against was the ruthless assault of chaos. What he was fighting for was, as it were, the life of the human mind.* My reactions toward this passage are explained in the following paragraphs. *We need to work on a more eloquent thesis.*

I think this passage is about Johnny's brain tumor affecting his mind and spirit ✓ too, not just the physical part of his brain. When Gunther writes "a primitive to-death struggle" he is talking about what man has been trying to ^{do} for ages, survive. *Good sentence style* Johnny's situation is not only about survival. *It* is also about being brave and selfless. For example, when Gunther writes "reason against disruption", he is talking about Johnny striving to keep things normal and not to sadden the people close to him. He does this by keeping up *the interpretation* with schoolwork, showing high spirits, positive attitude and being friendly throughout his suffering. There are so many things going through Johnny's head medically and mentally. He is not only dealing with a physical ailment, he is struggling with a mental challenge, to keep his life in order. *Superb chunker sentence.*

When I read this passage it made me feel disheartened. Gunther writes this as if there are too many things for Johnny to overcome. Gunther seems to convey the disease with little hope and yet he writes this passage as if Johnny were a hero fighting many battles. This passage makes me think of Johnny's parents who I feel sympathy toward. I also feel sorry toward Johnny because of his suffering. From another standpoint, I look to Johnny for his bravery.

Excellent use of examples.

*Exactly!
Can you identify what exactly in the passage gives you that impression?*

“...The ruthless assault of chaos” is part of the essence of Johnny’s disease. A brain tumor affects more than just the brain. It changes your life. Johnny’s disease caused disorder in his life, all the things he love doing were now impossible. He had to stay out of school, in a hospital bed most of the time, and physical limitations kept him from his favorite activities like swimming. Therefore, this passage captures the essence of Johnny’s disease by showing a brain tumor affects all aspects of life including thought.

The essence of the story is showing good character, like courage. Johnny shows courage by his attitude during his months of illness and fighting for something as indispensable as “the life of the human mind”. His “reason against violence” was the courage to be kind instead of lashing out at people. This passage shows the essence of the story by including examples of Johnny’s good character. Also, just fighting a life threatening illness while staying so compassionate shows excellent character.

What would I do if I had to face such a challenge? If I were in a situation like Johnny’s, I would use Johnny as a role model. I would strive to imitate the same cheerful disposition and high spirits. I would try not to give up hope and stay determined to fight for my life. Even during my most painful moments I would try to be like Johnny and hide my suffering so that I would not burden loved ones with sorrow. But in the end, I know that not many people could be as strong and brave as Johnny was during his last days. I could only hope to be as attitude upbeat and selfless as Johnny Gunther was.

In conclusion, Johnny’s behavior and the novel Death Be Not Proud taught me a lot about life. You should try to always be considerate of other people. One should live life to the fullest and never give up hope even in the darkest moments. And last but not least, a positive attitude makes any situation easier.

Good. Consider that you could look more closely at the word "chaos" and its connotations.

Very well put.

Agreed.