

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

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
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 <small>grammar, style, mechanics, MLA</small>	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>49</u> Mock Score: <u>49</u> Comments: <i>See comments on paper/journal.</i>			

Good job w/ MLA style.

Emily — you are writing at the level expected of you at the END of the year. It is sophisticated, remarkably well supported, and stylistically strong. A few minor adjustments and you will have mastered this type of writing.

21 July 2002

Could use a better title.
Death Be Not Proud: Choice Two

The author of this book, John Gunther, describes his son's, John Gunther Jr.'s, illness:
"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." (Gunther 80) This is very descriptive, and, when reading the passage, you can feel what the author is feeling. You can feel his anguish as he is discussing the ailment of his son. You can find meaning in what the author is expressing.

Exceptional sentence construction

Fighten this up.

SUPERB.

To me, this passage means that Johnny is fighting to save his mind. He is trying to save his accomplishments. If I had worked as hard as he did to be able to go to Harvard, I would not want to lose my chance. Johnny does not want to lose his chance. He does not want the tumor to take his dreams away. He knows that if he does not strive to beat the tumor, his future will fade and diminish into nothing. He will "lose" his mind. Everything he has worked for, and everything he cherishes, will be lost. "Let Johnny do exactly what he wants to do and die happy." (Gunther 105) "All he had now was his will to live. The cord of life was wearing very thin, and if we took away hope, it would be bound to snap." (Gunther 117) "But Johnny loved life desperately and we loved him desperately and it was our duty to try absolutely everything and keep him alive as long as possible." (Gunther 125)

Whoa Whoa Hold on there!

Avoid ever quoting w/out explanation. If you quote some text — discuss it, comment on it. Don't just leave it to your reader to figure out the text's significance.

After reading this segment, I predicted that Johnny would die. This upset me because he would not have the option to fulfill his dream of going to Harvard. "I tried...to work out some plausible arrangement with Dean Gummere whereby we could tell Johnny he had been admitted to Harvard even if he could not go." (Gunther 127-8) He would not be able to get married or have children. This was infuriating to me since he did not get much of a chance to experience life. "For fifteen months, hardly a week passed that Johnny did not have some kind of examination or other; for month after agonizing month there were the bandages and dressings to be changed every day; day after day...he faced and went through the most exhausting medical procedures." (Gunther 25) I was also sad because it was depressing to hear about someone being very sick. I felt miserable since there was little the doctors could do for him. "It was all hopeless now. What Johnny had now, the pathologist said, was one of the worst of all forms of tumor, glioma multiforme; moreover the specimen Mount got showed many mitotic figures: i.e., the production of malignant cells was rapidly increasing." (Gunther 105) He was fighting for his life with a very slim chance of keeping it. *Truly superior development!!*

Excellent personal response w/ superb diction

In calling Johnny's fight with the tumor a "to-the-death struggle," the author is being precise, saying exactly what he means. He is telling the reader that Johnny's battle was a fight for his life. Johnny's conflict can be interpreted as an endeavor in which Johnny was hoping to be the victor, but had almost all the odds against him--a small chance of a victory. When analyzing this, the whole "essence" of the book can also be described as the "essence" of Johnny's illness. The book is about Johnny's disease, so the two are related. Johnny's sickness, and the entirety of the book, is depicted as a war. A war for freedom from illness, a war for life. "Everybody tried hard to keep him from being too active. But he said, 'Walking around this way helps the wound heal.' [Gunther 120] 'There's no future to just sitting.'" (Gunther 121)

wow!

NICE!