

DEATH EDUCATION  
PRE-TEST

Tartan High School  
Grade 11  
Oakdale, Minnesota

True/False: Circle "T" if the statement is true; circle "F" if the statement is false.

- T F 1. The five psychological stages a dying person goes through are good examples of defense mechanisms.
- T F 2. The way people deal with death varies in parts of the world.
- T F 3. Grief can be experienced in situations other than death.
- T F 4. Suicide is not one of the leading causes of death in your age group.
- T F 5. The majority of deaths today occur with family and friends present and at home.
- T F 6. A Memorial Society is an organization designed to honor and preserve the memory of important people who have died.
- T F 7. Times of crisis as the death of another person can be a time of personal growth for the survivors.
- T F 8. Most children first experience death with the death of a parent.
- T F 9. People who contemplate suicide generally have high self-esteem.
- T F 10. Any crisis situation that involves the loss of a person or thing can cause a person to experience the stages of dying.
- T F 11. Death is a part of life - of the life cycle.
- T F 12. The first real awareness of death comes around ages 6 to 8.
- T F 13. Air burial is a method of body disposition used in some parts of the world.
- T F 14. The ritual of the funeral is designed primarily to aid and support the survivor.
- T F 15. All people go through the stages of dying prior to their death or the death of a significant person.
- T F 16. All people go through the stages of dying at the same rate or period of time.
- T F 17. Children accept death as a finality because of the number of deaths seen on TV.
- T F 18. One example of our death-denying society are the phrases and words used to talk about death.

MULTIPLE CHOICE: Put the number of the correct response in the blank to the left of the number.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The shortest stage of dying is the:  
1) bargaining stage; 3) acceptance stage;  
2) anger stage 4) depression stage
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The longest stage of dying is the:  
1) bargaining stage; 3) acceptance stage;  
2) anger stage; 4) depression stage

- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. A medical examination done to determine cause of death is a (an):  
1) electrocardiogram; 3) autopsy;  
2) electroencephalogram; 4) apoplexy
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Adolescents generally:  
1) fear death; 3) defy death;  
2) ignore death; 4) don't understand death
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The process of body disposal and committal that involves the burning of the body is called:  
1) organ transplant; 3) body donation;  
2) cryogenics; 4) cremation
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Those persons wishing to donate their body upon death will find that:  
1) There is a body shortage; 3) the practice has just started;  
2) there is not a body shortage; 4) the practice has been discontinued
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. A speech in high praise of a person is an (a)  
1) obituary; 3) eulogy;  
2) commentary; 4) documentary

MATCHING: Select the number of the correct response from Column B for each of the statements in Column A.

COLUMN ACOLUMN B

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| _____ 1. The stage for the dying person where survivors normally need more help and support than the dying person.             | 1) Terminal disease<br>2) Acute disease   |
| _____ 2. The biological definition of death.   | 3) Absence of a heart beat                |
| _____ 3. A successful attempt on one's own life.   | 4) Pediatrics                             |
| _____ 4. The study of the aging process.   | 5) Obituary                               |
| _____ 5. The worldly possessions one leaves to survivors.  | 6) Mourning<br>7) Anger stage             |
| _____ 6. The emotion felt during and upon the death of a significant person.   | 8) Acceptance stage                       |
| _____ 7. Mercy killing.  | 9) Euthanasia                             |
| _____ 8. A disease where the person will shortly die.  | 10) Estate                                |
| _____ 9. Death announcement published in the paper including name, age, survivors, place and time of services and burial, etc. | 11) Absence of brain waves<br>12) Suicide |
| _____ 10. The process or time period from the death of a significant person to the readjustment or recovery of the survivor/s. | 13) Geriatrics<br>14) Grief               |
| _____ 11. Legal document designating how the estate shall be divided upon death.   | 15) Will                                  |

# a psychology today questionnaire

## You & Death

Death is one of those ubiquitous topics on which every man is his own expert. It is also one of the most taboo topics in our culture. (Thanatologists have written about "the pornography of death.") Psychology Today seeks information on this touchy topic--and will, in a future issue, report the findings.

This questionnaire was designed by Edwin Shneidman of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, in consultation with Edwin Parker and G. Ray Funkhouser of Stanford University. It is a modification of a questionnaire Shneidman developed at Harvard with the help of four graduate assistants: Chris Dowell, Ross Goldstein, Dan Goleman and Bruce Smith.

Please check one answer for each question on the appropriate letter on the reply form and mail the form not later than August 31.

In the previous Psychology Today questionnaires about 10 per cent of the returns were accompanied by letters, comments or other written comments. In this questionnaire, we solicit supplementary written material. We would like to hear in detail about your first experiences with death; about your conceptualizations of death, immortality, the hereafter; about the major influences (including books) on your attitudes toward death; about the changes in your notions about death throughout your lifetime; about the role of the Vietnamese war, civil violence, the use of nuclear bombs, or whatever, on your attitudes toward death and life; autobiographical and case-history material and any other matters you might care to write about. We ask that if you do write you enclose your comments in an envelope with your questionnaire so that they can be matched and we can know the sex, age and other information about the writer. Please do not sign your name on either the questionnaire or your written comments.

**1** Who died in your first personal involvement with death?

- ☐ A. Grandparent or great-grandparent.
- ☐ B. Parent.
- ☐ C. Brother or sister.
- ☐ D. Other family member.
- ☐ E. Friend or acquaintance.
- ☐ F. Stranger.
- ☐ G. Public figure.
- ☐ H. Animal.

**2** To the best of your memory, at what age were you first aware of death?

- ☐ A. Under three.
- ☐ B. Three to five.
- ☐ C. Five to 10.
- ☐ D. Ten or older.

**3** When you were a child how was death talked about in your family?

- ☐ A. Openly.
- ☐ B. With some sense of discomfort.
- ☐ C. Only when necessary and then with an attempt to exclude the children.
- ☐ D. As though it were a taboo subject.
- ☐ E. Never recall any discussion.

**4** Which of the following best describes your childhood conceptions of death?

- ☐ A. Heaven-and-hell concept.
- ☐ B. After-life.
- ☐ C. Death as sleep.
- ☐ D. Cessation of all physical and mental activity.
- ☐ E. Mysterious and unknowable.
- ☐ F. Something other than the above.
- ☐ G. No conception.
- ☐ H. Can't remember.

**5** Which of the following most influenced your present attitudes toward death?

- ☐ A. Death of someone close.
- ☐ B. Specific reading.
- ☐ C. Religious upbringing.
- ☐ D. Introspection and meditation.
- ☐ E. Ritual (e.g., funerals).
- ☐ F. TV, radio or motion pictures.
- ☐ G. Longevity of my family.
- ☐ H. My health or physical condition.
- ☐ I. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Shakopee Jr. High  
9th Gr. English  
Shakopee, Minn.

(excerpts from a 75 part questionnaire)

**6** Which of the following books or authors have had the most effect on your attitude toward death?

- ☐ A. The Bible.
- ☐ B. Camus.
- ☐ C. Hesse.
- ☐ D. Agee.
- ☐ E. Shakespeare.
- ☐ F. Mann.
- ☐ G. No books or authors.
- ☐ H. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**7** How much of a role has religion played in the development of your attitude toward death?

- ☐ A. A very significant role.
- ☐ B. A rather significant role.
- ☐ C. Somewhat influential, but not a major role.
- ☐ D. A relatively minor role.
- ☐ E. No role at all.

☒ **8** To what extent do you believe in a life after death?

- ☐ A. Strongly believe in it.
- ☐ B. Tend to believe in it.
- ☐ C. Uncertain.
- ☐ D. Tend to doubt it.
- ☐ E. Convinced it does not exist.

**9** Regardless of your belief about life after death, what is your wish about it?

- ☐ A. I strongly wish there were a life after death.
- ☐ B. I am indifferent as to whether there is a life after death.
- ☐ C. I definitely prefer that there not be a life after death.

**10** To what extent do you believe in reincarnation?

- ☐ A. Strongly believe in it.
- ☐ B. Tend to believe in it.
- ☐ C. Uncertain.
- ☐ D. Tend to doubt it.
- ☐ E. Convinced it cannot occur.

☒ **11** How often do you think about your own death?

- ☐ A. Very frequently (at least once a day).
- ☐ B. Frequently.
- ☐ C. Occasionally.
- ☐ D. Rarely (no more than once a year).
- ☐ E. Very rarely or never.

12 If you could choose, when would you die?

- ☐ A. In youth.
- ☐ B. In the middle prime of life.
- ☐ C. Just after the prime of life.
- ☐ D. In old age.

13 When do you believe that, in fact, you will die?

- ☐ A. In youth.
- ☐ B. In the middle prime of life.
- ☐ C. Just after the prime of life.
- ☐ D. In old age.

14 Has there been a time in your life when you wanted to die?

- ☐ A. Yes, mainly because of great physical pain.
- ☐ B. Yes, mainly because of great emotional upset.
- ☐ C. Yes, mainly to escape an intolerable social or interpersonal situation.
- ☐ D. Yes, mainly because of great embarrassment.
- ☐ E. Yes, for a reason other than above.
- ☐ F. No.

29 If you had a choice, what kind of death would you prefer?

- ☐ A. Tragic, violent death.
- ☐ B. Sudden but not violent death.
- ☐ C. Quiet, dignified death.
- ☐ D. Death in line of duty.
- ☐ E. Death after a great achievement.
- ☐ F. Suicide.
- ☐ G. Homicidal victim.
- ☐ H. There is no "appropriate" kind of death.
- ☐ I. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

30 Have your attitudes toward death ever been affected by narcotic or hallucinogenic drugs?

- ☐ A. Yes.
- ☐ B. I have taken drugs but my attitudes toward death have never been affected by them.
- ☐ C. I have never taken drugs.

31 If it were possible would you want to know the exact date on which you are going to die?

- ☐ A. Yes.
- ☐ B. No.

32 If your physician knew that you had a terminal disease and a limited time to live, would you want him to tell you?

- ☐ A. Yes.
- ☐ B. No.
- ☐ C. It would depend on the circumstances.

20 Based on your present feelings, what is the probability of your taking your own life in the near future?

- ☐ A. Extremely high (I feel very much like killing myself).
- ☐ B. Moderately high.
- ☐ C. Between high and low.
- ☐ D. Moderately low.
- ☐ E. Extremely low (very improbable that I would ever do so).

37 How often have you seriously contemplated committing suicide?

- ☐ A. Very often.
- ☐ B. Only once in a while.
- ☐ C. Very rarely.
- ☐ D. Never.

38 Have you ever actually attempted suicide?

- ☐ A. Yes, with an actual very high probability of death.
- ☐ B. Yes, with an actual moderate probability of death.
- ☐ C. Yes, with an actual low probability of death.
- ☐ D. No.

39 Whom have you known who has committed suicide?

- ☐ A. Member of immediate family.
- ☐ B. Other family member.
- ☐ C. Close friend.
- ☐ D. Acquaintance.
- ☐ E. No one.
- ☐ F. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

40 How do you estimate your lifetime probability of committing suicide?

- ☐ A. I plan to do it some day.
- ☐ B. I hope that I do not, but I am afraid that I might.
- ☐ C. In certain circumstances, I might very well do it.
- ☐ D. I doubt that I would do it in any circumstances.
- ☐ E. I am sure that I would never do it.

41 Suppose that you were to commit suicide, what reason would most motivate you to do it?

- ☐ A. To get even or hurt someone.
- ☐ B. Fear of insanity.
- ☐ C. Physical illness or pain.
- ☐ D. Failure or disgrace.
- ☐ E. Loneliness or abandonment.
- ☐ F. Death or loss of a loved one.
- ☐ G. Family strife.
- ☐ H. Atomic war.
- ☐ I. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

42 Suppose you were to commit suicide, what method would you be most likely to use?

- ☐ A. Barbiturates or pills.
- ☐ B. Gunshot.
- ☐ C. Hanging.
- ☐ D. Drowning.
- ☐ E. Jumping.
- ☐ F. Cutting or stabbing.
- ☐ G. Carbon monoxide.
- ☐ H. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

43 Suppose you were ever to commit suicide, would you leave a suicide note?

- ☐ A. Yes.
- ☐ B. No.

44 To what extent do you believe that suicide should be prevented?

- ☐ A. In every case.
- ☐ B. In all but a few cases.
- ☐ C. In some cases, yes; in others, no.
- ☐ D. In no case; if a person wants to commit suicide society has no right to stop him.

45 What efforts do you believe ought to be made to keep a seriously ill person alive?

- ☐ A. All possible effort: transplantations, kidney dialysis, etc.
- ☐ B. Efforts that are reasonable for that person's age, physical condition, mental condition, and pain.
- ☐ C. After reasonable care has been given, a person ought to be permitted to die a natural death.
- ☐ D. A senile person should not be kept alive by elaborate artificial means.

64 How religious do you consider yourself to be?

- ☐ A. Very religious.
- ☐ B. Somewhat religious.
- ☐ C. Slightly religious.
- ☐ D. Not at all religious.
- ☐ E. Antireligious.

65 What is your political preference?

- ☐ A. Republican.
- ☐ B. Independent.
- ☐ C. Democratic.
- ☐ D. Other.

66 Would you describe your political views?

- ☐ A. Very liberal.
- ☐ B. Somewhat liberal.
- ☐ C. Moderate.
- ☐ D. Somewhat conservative.
- ☐ E. Very conservative.

67 What is your level of education?

- ☐ A. Grade school.
- ☐ B. High-school graduate.
- ☐ C. Some college.
- ☐ D. College graduate.
- ☐ E. Some graduate school.
- ☐ F. Master's degree.
- ☐ G. Ph.D., M.D. or other advanced degree.

68 What is the approximate annual income of your family?

- ☐ A. Less than \$5,000.
- ☐ B. From \$5,000 to \$10,000.
- ☐ C. From \$10,000 to \$15,000.
- ☐ D. From \$15,000 to \$25,000.
- ☐ E. From \$25,000 to \$50,000.
- ☐ F. More than \$50,000.

71 What are your present living arrangements?

- ☐ A. With my family.
- ☐ B. In a dormitory, shared dwelling or apartment with others.
- ☐ C. Living alone (in room, apartment or house).



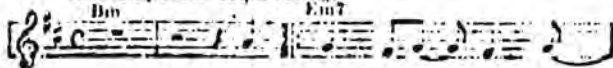
# 38 Song from "M.A.S.H."

(Suicide Is Painless)

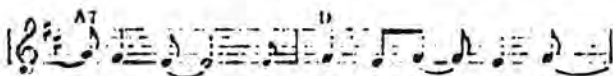
From The Twentieth Century Fox Motion Picture "M.A.S.H."

Words and Music by  
MIKE ALTMAN and JOHNNY MANDEL

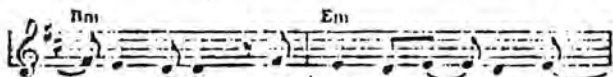
Modestly (Folk-Gospel Feeling)



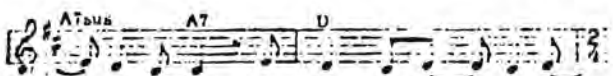
1. Through ear - ly morn - ing fog
2. try to find a way
3. game of life is hard
4. on - ly way to win,
5. sword of time will pierce
6. brave man once re - quest



1. I see vis - ions of the things
2. to make All our lit - tle joys
3. to play, I'm going to lose it an -
4. is cheat And lay it down be - fore
5. our skins It does - n't hurt when it
6. - ed me To an - swer ques - tions that



1. to be: the pains that are with - held
2. re - late With - out that ev - er pres -
3. - y way The los - ing card I'll some -
4. I'm beat And to an - oth - er give
5. be - gins But as it works its way
6. are key Is it to be or not

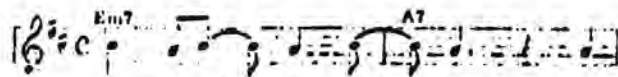


1. for me I re - al - ize and I
2. - ent hate But now I know that it's
3. - day lay So this is all I have
4. a seat For that's the on - ly pain
5. on in The pain grows strong - er, watch
6. to be And I re - plied: "Oh, why

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Used by Permission  
All Rights Reserved



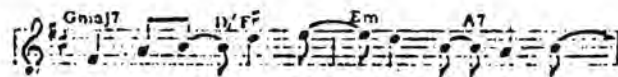
1. can see That
2. too late And
3. to say That
4. less feel Cause
5. it grin For
6. ask me Cause



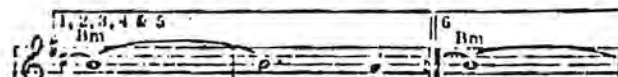
su - i - cide is pain - less, it



brings on man - y chang - es, and



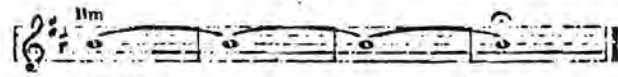
I can take or leave it if I please



2. I
3. The
4. The
5. The
6. A



And you can do the same thing if you



please.

A sing along record is used with the music book.  
Music book is titled "Exodus"

Cold Spring Elementary School - Montgomery Cty.  
Westchester Elem School - Baltimore, Co. Md.

1980 gr 4-6

Shady Side Elementary - Anne Arundel  
County Md.

Approved for Montgomery County use.

Approved by Maryland State Dept. of Ed'n. Music

### A STORY

Linda failed to return home from a dance Friday night. On Saturday, she admitted she had spent the night drinking at her girlfriend's house.

Her parents decided on a punishment that would "wake Linda up." They ordered her to shoot the dog she had owned about two years.

On Sunday, Linda and her parents took the dog into the desert near their home. They had the girl dig a shallow grave. Then Linda's mom grasped the dog between her hands and her father gave the daughter a .22 caliber pistol and told her to shoot the dog.

Instead, the girl put the pistol to her right temple and shot herself.

The police said there were no charges that could be filed against the parents except possibly "cruelty to animals".

#### MULTIPLE CHOICE TEST:

The most violent person(s) in this story were:

- a. Linda, who was out getting drunk at a friend's house.
- b. The other girl, who had Linda over to drink.
- c. The parents who ordered the dog shot.
- d. The police who could find no charges to be filed.
- e. The society which permitted this to happen and offered no corrective action.

At least nobody blamed the dog. Linda must have loved the dog, since her parents decided to have her shoot it as a form of punishment. If the dog had been less lovable, the parents would have decided upon some other form of punishment, perhaps a simple beating or whipping. So you see, it's the dog's fault Linda is dead. Or maybe Linda is the violent one; after all, she pulled the trigger. Blame the victim, why not?