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You will need to carefully read the selection below and complete various activities using the essay as your basis.

Using the highlight function on your computer, you will need to mark the essay below. It will be necessary for you to read the essay several times to fully understand the essay and complete the markings in such a way that demonstrates a close reading of the essay. You will need to use the following chart to correctly mark the essay.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Highlight Color | Item to be identified | Use an X to indicate you have accomplished this task. Use NA if this task did not apply to this essay. |
| PINK | Mark the main idea of the essay. |  |
| AQUA | Mark key examples/ support for the main idea/ theme of the essay. |  |
| GREEN | Mark statements that you agree with . |  |
| YELLOW | Mark statements that are new to you or make you think in a new way. |  |
| RED | Mark statements in the essay that you disagree with. |  |
| GRAY | Mark terms/ concepts that you found difficult to understand. |  |

The time I began reading and marking this assignment was:

It was one of the few times in my life when I knew for certain that I’d done the right thing. After his grandfather’s funeral, my 11-year-old son motioned me aside and said, “Mom, this is the hardest thing that’s ever happened to me, but it would have been worse if it had been a shock. Thanks for always telling me the truth.”

It had been a difficult decision. When we received the news of Pop’s terminal illness, my husband and I wrestled with whether to tell the kids, then nine and ten years old. We finally decided to do so, not all at once, but slowly, by degrees, leading them to the inevitable conclusion that things weren’t going to work out the way we all wanted them to. We helped them accept the fact that though there was hope for intermittent improvement and a good quality of remaining life, the eventual outcome would be death.

And now my son was telling me that our decision had been the right one—that shielding him and his younger sister would have done them a disservice and robbed them of an opportunity for growth.

There were many reasons we made the decision we did. The kids already knew something was up, and telling them the truth validated their own perceptions. Like all children, they could read the signs of trouble: the furrowed brow, the anxious voice, the sudden flare-ups. If, in the face of evidence to the contrary, we had pasted on pseudo-smiles and told them everything was fine, we would have taught them to doubt their own instincts—and to doubt us.

Telling the kids the truth showed them we believed they had the ability to handle the ups and downs that are part of daily existence—and that made them feel strong. Dealing honestly with the first real tragedy in their lives helped them become more resilient, more compassionate, and more competent. Today they are adults and sometimes I marvel at their ability to just keep putting one foot in front of the other when times are tough. I think that rock-steady dependability stems from the honesty that was the hallmark of their growing up.

Obviously we tempered our truth-telling with common sense. And we tried to be sensitive to our children’s differences. Our son always wanted details. The more knowledge he had, the more comfortable he felt. Our daughter, on the other hand, wanted only the barest outline. She was always quick to interrupt if she felt overloaded. “Okay, Mom,” she’d say. “I understand. You don’t have to tell me any more.”

The truth, though it may make us momentarily uncomfortable, ultimately does set us free. I believe that if we treat our children with love and kindness, and they know they can count on us to help them cope with difficult situations, they have nothing to fear from the facts.

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| Your response should be self-contained. When someone reads your responses, they should be able to tell which question you are responding to.  In marking the essay you should be clear in what idea and item you are reacting to. The markings should indicate a close and personal reading of the essay. Excessive markings or lack of markings may indicate a failure to have closely read and comprehended the essay. |  |
| Based on your reading and marking of the essay identify the main idea of the essay as well as support including direct quotations and evidence from the essay. Your response should be limited to no more than one (1) well written and adequately edited paragraph. |  |
| Using at least two (2) of the writing prompts below and in no more than three (3) well written and adequately edited paragraphs create a response to the essay:   * The part (s) of the essay I agreed with were * The part (s) of the essay I disagreed with were * This essay reminded me of/ made me think of * This essay made me think in a new way * This essay was similar to another essay |  |
| What question (s) would you like to ask the author of this essay? Explain your reasoning for wanting to have the answer to this question. |  |
| Having now read this essay I… |  |
| **Presenters Only:** You will need to have three (3) questions that you would like to present to your classmates during your seminar. |  |

The time I completed reading and marking this assignment was: