

Narrative Medicine: Building Resilience and Promoting Engagement Through Story

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Objectives

- Define Narrative Medicine
- Know the Three movements of Narrative Medicine
- Participate in a close reading exercise.
 - Our “Text” today is a painting.
- Discuss, Share & write about:
 - One’s Perspective of this painting &
 - Make connections to professional and personal experiences
 - How this impacts what we bring to our work &
 - What we take away from it.



Narrative Medicine: Defined

- “Clinical practice fortified by the knowledge of what to do with stories.” *
- “Capacity to skillfully receive the accounts persons give of themselves.” *
- Recognize, absorb, interpret, be moved to action...
- Three movements:
 - Attention
 - Representation
 - Affiliation

* Rita Charon, MD, Ph D - Lit





"To write prescriptions is easy, but to come to an understanding with people is hard."

Franz Kafka, A Country Doctor
Ernest Ceriani, MD, Kremmling CO. Eugene Smith Photo, Life Magazine
<https://timeline.com/life-american-country-doctor-9434632e1134>





CRAIG IRVINE, PhD- Founding Director of the Masters Program in N.M.

"Listening . . . is a fundamental moral act."



NELLIE HERMANN, MFA- Artistic Director of the Program in Narrative Medicine

"Writing is a way of **accessing aspects of our mind and our experiences** that we had no access to previously."



MAURA SPIEGEL, PhD- Founding Core Faculty Member, Program in N. M.

"Intellectually and emotionally invested in a film narrative, **we get caught up in empathizing** and identifying with the characters and the action."

"Where am I in this patient's story?"





Imagination...

"The study of the arts and humanities are the most direct means to enable doctors to see the suffering that is around them..." (2018 Jefferson Lecture)

"It is the imagining, the summoning-up of another narrative world that allows us to . . . I am not going to say understand, but to come near, near to the plight of the person we are trying to help."

Rita Charon, MD, Ph D - Lit



Imagination

"Convention suggests that scientists are in charge of fact and artists are in charge of the imagination. Yet the membrane between facts and imagination is very permeable and each needs the other." (2018 Hoover Lecture, York Hospital)



Catherine Rogers, MFA, MS.
Playwright, Performer



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Logistics

- Look at Sir Luke Fildes' Painting
 - The Doctor
- Discuss:
 - Any detail that tells about the story.
 - Impact of story on us and others.
- Write to a prompt.
- Share what was written.



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The Doctor by Sir Luke Fildes



The Doctor 1891



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Watching Closely



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Narrative Medicine

- Close Reading.
 - Listening carefully and watching closely.
- Receive the accounts people give of themselves.
- Share perspectives.
- Reflect on your experiences and perspectives.
- Write about them.
- A refreshment and an unction.



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