

Discussion Guide: An introduction to *The Healing Muse 16* for readers and educators

Looking for ideas on how to use *The Healing Muse* as a text in a classroom or as a selection for a book club?

Here is an excerpt from the Readers' Guide for this issue of *The Muse*. You can access the entire guide for this and other issues at www.thehealingmuse.org

Parents and Children

The following pieces incorporate parents and children into their narratives, sometimes easily, sometimes with layers of complications. What do we learn about the narrators? Does aging exacerbate the relationship or merely refine it?

- “*She Says/He Says/Emily*” by Jordana Gilman
- “*Golden Rule*” by Leah Johnson
- “*Killing Time*” by Rebekah Keaton
- “*Parental Lessons: Never Talk to Strangers*” by Tori Russell
- “*Left-Sided Neglect*” by James English

The Good Physician/The Good Nurse

What do we mean when we say we want a good doctor and a good nurse? Do we include personal characteristics along with professional competence? The following selections offer some answers; compare and contrast them; does a composite emerge?

- “*The Doctor*” by Matthew J. Spireng
- “*The Hero*” by Emily Weston
- “*Prognosis*” by Kathleen M. Kelley
- “*Sun White Hot and Blinding*” by Gaetan Sgro
- “*A Collection of Firsts*” by Brielle Stanton