

***When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi - part 2 (pages 68-140)**

Pages 68-78

1. What specialty did Paul choose? What does that decision say about his personality?
2. What were some of the cases Paul dealt with during the first week of his residency?
3. What were some causes of death that Paul saw?

Pages 78-88

4. What were some of the challenges in Paul's second year of training?
5. What did Paul and Jeff use to measure head-injury severity?
6. What was Paul's fear amid the tragedies and failures he faced? What was his ideal?

Pages 88-98

7. Who did Paul think about late in his residency? What did he learn from observing him?
8. What are the two varieties of brain cancers?
9. What did Paul diagnose for Mrs. Lee? What did he keep in mind as he explained things to her and her husband?
10. What is a meaning of "patient"? Why are patients often silent when receiving diagnoses?
11. How did Paul help Jeff overcome despondency?

Pages 99-115

12. Describe V.
13. On page 103 is written, "A surgeon's skill is judged by his speed." Why is speed important? How did Paul achieve it?
14. Give examples of the difference made by a millimeter in brain surgery.

15. What precautions do surgeons take when operating on the part of the brain that controls speech? Why?

16. What happened to Jeff? What did Paul wish he could have said?

Pages 119-127

17. How did Paul's future plans change with his diagnosis of lung cancer?

18. What are the Kaplan-Meier survival curves? Why didn't Emma want to talk about them?

19. What steps did Paul's family take for Paul release from the hospital?

Pages 127-132

20. How was the relationship between Emma and Paul different than that of a typical patient?

21. What are the two paths of treatment for Paul's cancer?

Pages 132-139

22. On page 132, where do Paul and Lucy go? Why?

23. What was Paul's treatment? How did it affect him?

24. What are the decisions that Paul is struggling with?