

Unit 5 Knowledge and Ignorance

Words and phrases expected of students to understand

palpitate

five days straight

wiggle

leaf v.

prop up on pillows/against the wall

Dawn broke on the doctor's face

rule out

social milieu

in a huddle

a suggestion of...

I detected a suggestion of malice in his remarks.

in due course

Preparatory Work

(1)

Symptom	Checkup	Diagnosis	Clinic	Other
cough (咳嗽) prolonged emptying time (排空时间过长)	have an orthodiagram (拍X线片— 注:平常人不这 么说,就是 take an X-ray) have an EKG (做心电图) have a Fluorooaortogr am (做主动脉 造影)	functional (功 能性的) vascular (血 管的) hypertensive (高血压的) pylorospasm (幽门痉挛) cardiomegaly (心脏肥大症) minimal left ventricular hypertrophy (微小左心室肥	Gastroenterol ogy 消化科 Neorology(神 经病学) Neuropsychol ogy (神经心理 学) rheumatology (风湿病学)	AMA (美国医药 协会) Gastro-Intesti nal (胃肠道的) aortic valve (主动脉瓣) the great arteries (主动 脉) peripheral capillary bed (周围毛细血管 床) rheumatologi

		厚) peripheral vascular spasticity (周 围血管痉挛)		st (风湿病医 生) tubular function (肾小 管功能) filtration fraction (滤过 分数)
--	--	---	--	--

The following are just for your reference

The Inadequacies of Modern Orthodiagramatic Techniques in Demonstrating Minimal Left Ventricular Hypertrophy 当代影像技术在显示微小左心室肥厚方面的不足之处

the Diagnostic Clinic (诊断科) vs. the Therapeutic Clinic (治疗科) vs. the Functional Clinic(功能科)//Mitral Valve Clinic (二尖瓣科) vs. Aortic Valve Clinic (主动脉瓣科) (allthe clinics are made up for satirical effect)

psychoneuroticiſt 神经心理医生 (a made-up word, possibly coined from Psychoneurosis 精神神经病 or Neuropsychology 神经心理学)

psychosociologist 社会心理医生 (a made-up word; psycho+ sociologist)

pituitary osmoreceptorologist 渗透压感受器专家 ?? (a word possibly coined from pituitary osmoreceptor 渗透压感受器)

(2) The story was published in 1963, and in the story a doctor says it's 1972, which means that the story has a futuristic setting. It's not a typical science fiction as I understand the term, for science fiction, though hard to define, usually involves

wilder imaginative concepts such as futuristic science and technology, space travel, time travel, parallel universes and extraterrestrial life.

Yet it may be viewed as a story of science fiction in the sense that the author makes up a futuristic setting of extremely meticulous divisions of medicine to warn against such a trend, since science fiction also means, according to science fiction writer Robert A. Heinlein, "realistic speculation about possible future events, based solidly on adequate knowledge of the real world, past and present, and on a thorough understanding of the nature and significance of the scientific method."

But, to be honest, I do think it's more a satire than science fiction.

(3) There are altogether 13 doctors besides the Turk. (Interesting number!)

The doctor (community doctor?)---the red-headed doctor (Gastro-Intestinal man) and Dr. Schultz (the Orthopedic Radiologist)---another doctor (possibly also Orthopedic Radiologist), who brought two more doctors (in Valve Clinic)---the Mitral man, the Aortic man, the Great Arteries man and the Peripheral Capillary Bed man---doctor in the Functional Clinic---Psychoneurotologist, Psychosociologist--- the Turk (Is he really a Turk? I don't know what's his field.)

(4) They are italicized for emphasis. They are to be read out aloud.

Para. 9 Fifty-*five* The doctor shows his incredulity. He believes 55 as a critical age but the man hasn't had a checkup for almost 10 years.

Para.13 ...you may be *feeling* well, it implies that the doctor doesn't believe he is actually well.

Para.24 ...I could *do* that... The doctor was shocked that the patient was "ignorant" to the extent that he asked only for sth. to stop the pain. According to the doctor, the root cause of the problem had to be found out first.

Para. 24 ...more...*aspirin* poisoning than of *cyanide* poisoning
The two words are emphasized to distinguish them and to let the information sink in.

Para. 26 we have to *think* about... The doctor implies that Wheatley hasn't

thought much about his own health.

Para. 37 I don't *think* so. It is implied by the emphasis that

Wheatley fails to understand the word Fluorooortogram.

Para.38 Now this patient--- The doctor suddenly realized his purpose of coming here.

Para. 41 you *mustn't* worry. The doctor thinks that Wheatley has the reasons to be worried but that his worry might make the situation worse. Therefore he mustn't worry.

Critical Reading:

1. Questions

- (1) He was very nervous.
- (2) He doesn't think Wheatley's complaints have much value. He has his own professional training of inquiring.
- (3) He is an Orthopedic Radiologist (And I think he is a colleague of Dr. Schultz's). He mentions the article in details possibly because it's his recent focus of attention, or in other words he is still thinking about it when he talks.
- (4) I don't know for sure where he went or what brought him there. I think both the Turkish drapes and the turban are used to give an exotic flavor to that place, to form a sharp contrast with the previous "scientific" atmosphere. He might or might not be a Turk. Still we know this last resort of Wheatley's must be some branch of the "alternative medicine", which according the Wikipedia, "is any practice that is put forward as having the healing effects of medicine, but does not originate from evidence gathered using the scientific method." This ending provides an alternative choice to the allegedly "scientific" modern medicine and makes it a choice Wheatley voluntarily made after being disillusioned with the modern medicine. The effect is quite satirical.

2. True or False

- (1) F It's satirical.
- (2) F Wheatley is certainly worried by the first doctor's words, but not to the serious extent as is stated in this sentence.
- (3) F He starts to feel worried and thinks that the doctor may take the blood pressure or do other check-ups to decide whether it's inflammatory or sth. else.
- (4) F It only occurred to him that the patient just wants sth. to stop the pain.

3. (1) B (2) C (3) D

II. Critiquing the text

- (1) The doctor's professional in the sense that he made the enquiries and diagnoses in a logical way. Of course the problem is that he always cut the patient short, relied too much on his theoretical hypotheses and wouldn't do any check-up to ascertain what was wrong with the toe. Therefore he is not a competent doctor.
- (2) "Interesting" here might be a euphemism for sth. tricky, sth. difficult to handle. I don't know how to answer the rest of the questions (what to make of his words, what's his real intention?)
- (3) Early on the doctor simply told Wheatley to go to the "Valve Clinic", talking it for granted that Wheatley knew which valve clinic he should go. But it was unlikely for a layperson like Wheatley to know that there was a subdivision of "valve clinic" and which one was the right one for him.
Fortunately, there is no "Mitral Valve Clinic", "Aortic Valve Clinic" or even "Valve Clinic" in the real world. The author makes them up as a good example to show how unnecessarily complicated and how confusing modern medical science has become.
- (4) One sentence can account for all those referrals: "Always best to let the expert handle the problem in his own field." I think the quotation might be part of the long-term professional training they have received before they become doctors. Therefore I put the blame on the unnecessary branching of modern medicine science, not on the doctors themselves. They are trained in this way. It's not their irresponsibility or sth. Actually this article helps me to develop some empathy for the doctors in past news reports about doctors asking their patients to do a thorough checkup before making their diagnoses. I used to think, like what the reporters led us to believe, that they were just trying to make more money. But this article throws new light on those cases. Now I can see why the doctors think it reasonable and even necessary to do such checkups. They are trained in this way.
- (5) Most of the terms and jargons are difficult to understand. The author even made up some words, usually very difficult and long words. The effect is well achieved. The reader can literally sense the feelings of awe, confusion and perplexity that Wheatley must have felt at the flow of those incomprehensible, professional, solemnly-uttered jargons. In some specialized fields like medicine, language is used as a tool to establish an unbalanced power

structure in which lay people remain in a powerless and underprivileged status. The author is sensitive enough to recognize it in the real life, and wise enough to exaggerate the jargons a bit so as to make them more recognizable to his reader.

- (6) I read this short story as a satire on modern medicine science: it is evolving into a dead end, which sacrifices efficiency for expertise and fails to provide the cure it promises.
- (7) Lack of efficiency, unnecessary branching, relying too much on theories and equipments, too meticulous in making a diagnosis... Students are encouraged to come up with ways to handle the problems. Possibly more reading of literary works might help. Haha.
- (8) I agree that ordinary people usually remain powerless in the unbalanced relationship between experts and lay people. They are deprived of the discourse power, unable to utter their own opinions or to keep things under their own control. What makes things worse, due to the monopoly of knowledge, they not only lack confidence in their own judgments, but also, in most cases, do fail to make sensible judgments.

以下是奉侯老师之命加上的语言练习的部分参考答案：

2. Paraphrase:

- (1) It might start as pain in one toe but lead to something more serious. The doctor didn't think Wheatley gave enough attention to his health.
- (2) I suppose I should have had checkups in the past ten years.
- (3) We are going to cure you soon. We need just a few more studies to cure you.
- (4) The doctor realized what Wheatley wanted to say.
- (5) A few hours later the doctors were examining him by ways of thumping, photographing and listening.
- (6) The doctors agreed that he had to go through those checkups to rule out possibilities of certain diseases.

3. Translation E-C

(1) 医生们把某些物质注入他的右胳膊，又把某些物质从左胳膊里抽出来。在这个过程中，他不禁惊叹现代医学技术多么发达。

(2) 医生们头碰头聚在一起，随着讨论变得越来越激烈，时不时的会有个别词语飘过来。

(3) 房间又小又暗，厚重的土耳其式布帘遮住了后面的黑乎乎的过道。空气中飘浮着一丝熏香的味道。