

Unconscious Teenage Boy Miraculously Comes Back To Life

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Category : Human Interest

Unlocking Word Meanings

Read the following words/expressions found in today’s article.

- 1. **slim chance** / **slɪm tʃæns, tʃɑns** / (idiom) – unlikely to happen
Example: He had a **slim chance** of surviving the car accident, but he miraculously made it.
- 2. **resuscitate** / **rɪˈsʌsɪˌteɪt** / (v) – to bring someone back from unconsciousness
Example: The doctors successfully **resuscitated** the dying patient.
- 3. **utter** / **ˈʌt ə** / (v) – to verbally express something
Example: I felt better after my boss **uttered** words of encouragement.
- 4. **astonishment** / **əˈstʌnɪʃmənt** / (n) – feeling of surprise or amazement
Example: She rejected the job offer, much to my **astonishment**.
- 5. **recuperate** / **rɪˈkupeɪˌreɪt, -ˈkyu-** / (v) – to get better after being sick or injured
Example: He took a sick leave to **recuperate**.

Article

Read the text below.

A teenage boy from Alabama, United States, regained consciousness despite being declared brain dead by his doctors.

In March, thirteen-year-old Trenton McKinley got into a serious accident. He was riding a trailer pulled by a go-cart, which his friend was driving. The vehicle turned over, causing it to fall on McKinley’s head as he hit the ground. Because of this tragic incident, he suffered a traumatic brain injury and seven skull fractures.

McKinley underwent surgery, but the doctors said that he had a **slim chance** of surviving. They also told his mother that even if he did survive, he would not be able to live a normal life.

Considering the experts’ judgment, McKinley’s parents decided to sign a document consenting life support removal and organ donation. This was after they learned that there were five children who could benefit from their son’s organs.

But the day before his life support removal, McKinley displayed signs of consciousness. Although McKinley needs to undergo more surgeries, he is slowly recovering. His mother even confirmed that he can now walk, talk, and read.

Like McKinley, another teenager from the United States was also miraculously revived after being declared dead for 45 minutes.

In 2015, 14-year-old John Smith fell through an icy lake and was submerged for 15 minutes before he was rescued. Doctors tried **resuscitating** him for 27 minutes, but they failed. His mother then **uttered** a prayer for him. Then, the doctors suddenly felt his pulse, much to their **astonishment**. Even though the doctors predicted that his brain function would be damaged, Smith still **recuperated** well.

Viewpoint Discussion

Enjoy a discussion with your tutor.

Discussion A

- If you were McKinley’s parent, would you immediately sign the consent document? Explain.

• If you were the parent of one of the revived teenagers, what type of support will you give him?

Discussion B

• Do you believe in miracles? Why or why not?

• If miracles do exist, what kind of miracles would you want to witness? Discuss.