**“Lenses”**

**By Leah Silverman**

Technology has come a long way in saving our lives and proving people with life altering/improving surgery or implants. But has it gone too far? Could it go too far?

After reading the short story, answer the following questions on your own paper.

**Critical thinking about the story Questions (Interpreting and Comprehending the story)**

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of having the eye surgery Grusha has in the story? Make a chart to keep your ideas clear.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Advantages of Having the Eye Surgery | Disadvantages of Having the Eye Surgery |
| * She is able to have better vision with the new eyes replaced | * The optometrist has to sew the muscle to the holes in the shell which can be painful |
| * No more crazy thoughts in Grusha’s mind or dreams | * She had to get cuts in her eyes which lead to swollen lids now with her eye replacement |
| * No more liquid darkness or painfulness from the light with her new eyes. | * Having to deal with pads of tape stuck on top of her eyes |

1. What is Corrine’s dilemma in the story? How does she feel about doing the surgery? Why does she finally do it?

Corrine’s dilemma in the story was what he should do to get the new eyes in safely in order for Grusha to have better eyesight. In the story, Grusha felt nervous and frightened and wants to get it over with through the eye surgery. She was finally able to do it not just of her bravery skills, but also since during that time, she needed Corrine to help her very badly and as soon as he joined, he helped replacing her eyes. She even knew how skilled he was.

1. How important is honesty in a relationship? Should Corrinne have told Grusha of her concerns?

Honesty is extremely important in a relationship especially in a marriage and in this story. This says that I think that Corrine should have told Grusha because of her concerns before and after the surgery and dealing with those obstacles. If he did not tell Grusha her concerns, this could lead her to potential death and really bad consequences like blindness.

**Connections to the World Questions**

1. Do a quick google search and find 3-5 current technological advancements used in medicine to save lives or make people’s lives better. Make a list.

- Telemedicine and Telehealth

- Remote Monitoring Tools

- Wearable Technology

- Electronic Health Records

- Genome Sequencing

1. Choose 1 of those tech elements and research it in more details.

The tech element I chose is Telemedicine.

* 1. What are the pros? The cons?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Pros | Cons |
| * Convenience | * Electronic Glitches |
| * Limited time in the waiting room | * Physician Resistance |
| * Cost-efficiency | * Inadequate Assessment |

* 1. What is the cost? Is it covered by our medical system or do patients have to pay out of pocket?

Patients will have to pay out of their own pocket and it typically costs from anywhere as little as $43 to as much as $86.

* 1. Is it controversial? (e.g. Cochlear implants)

It is controversial in some areas like the U.S. due to the expansion of the Health Care IT industry.

* 1. What website(s) did you use to research?

The websites I used were:

<https://healthinformatics.uic.edu/blog/5-ways-technology-is-improving-health/#:~:text=It%20could%20be%20argued%20that%20of%20all%20the,has%20made%20us%20healthier%20and%20increased%20life%20expectancies.>

<https://health.usnews.com/health-news/articles/2012/07/24/pros-and-cons-of-telemedicine-for-todays-workers>

<https://medicare.com/coverage/does-medicare-cover-telemedicine/#:~:text=You%20are%20responsible%20for%20your%20portion%20of%20the,responsible%20for%20an%20in-person%20doctor%20visit%20or%20consultation.>

**Connect to Self Question**

1. Would you have the surgery if you were in Grusha’s position?

If I were Grusha, I would have had the surgery because if I did not, I would have ended up with poor eyesight and have weird thoughts in my mind that would taunt up on me. With that surgery, even with injuries, it still led to a positive outcome like Grusha was able to see properly even with swollen lids. Even though you get cuts in your eyes and with pads on top, it can be painful but just be brave and just relax and do not be super afraid, otherwise you would deal with weird thoughts and black liquid for the rest of your lifetime.