

Literature and Medicine

- I. Why we're here
 - A. Listen to the patient's voice (and the physician's voice)
 - B. Begin to recognize these voices in their various forms
 - C. How do we do this?
 - 1. By paying close attention to language
 - 2. By paying close attention to mood and feelings
 - D. We will begin to learn about the unstated messages, the messages behind the messages, the nuances and subtleties, ambiguities and contradictoriness of human communication
 - E. Dickinson quote
 - 1. Usually, if they trust you, eventually patients will tell you all the truth, or most of it
 - 2. But they will often tell it "slant," indirectly, partially
 - 3. Poetry and imaginative writing is a good way to help us understand "truth at a slant"