

FHS COMMENTS 2014 24

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: I find this 55 word story interesting but confusing. I thought it was an indictment of the superficiality of social media in dealing with death and dying; but then at the end it seemed to be more about physicians who had made an error and caused an unnecessary child death. I had trouble reconciling the first and last halves of the piece. Also, I'd like the author to find another word for "brother" in the last line, as it strikes me as inappropriately exclusive.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: This 55 word story starts out as a cutting indictment of how we substitute social media for real emotion. It seems to highlight the difference between the seductive glamour of a public dying and the actual reality of a dying kid. But then, the point seems to shift and suddenly the piece is not about social media at all but about medical error. Can you figure out a way to temper the (perhaps unintended) irony of the first part and reconcile it with the main target of your condemnation – fallible and flawed physicians? Also, a smaller point, but in the final line, the word "brothers" is jarring – why not sisters? Were all the physicians male? Are you using "brother" in a generic sense? Maybe you could say, "And we shake our fists at each other, ourselves"?