

FSH REVIEW 12/8/18

MAJOR REVISION

Based on my review and on reviewer comments I am not able to accept your submission. However, we think your story has merit, and would like to give you an opportunity to do a major revision. If you decide to undertake this rewrite, please pay careful attention to the excellent reviewer suggestions, with special attention to the following points:

- 1) Change the title. It sounds too academic, and does not do justice to your narrative. Reviewer 2 has a good suggestion in "Through the Woods."
- 2) Provide a line or two at the start about your professional role to context your story. Something along the lines of: "Now I am a family therapist working in medical settings. I've sometimes asked myself, how did I get here? In a way, it's all due to my grandfather."
- 3) You need to do further work on describing your grandfather's stories. There is some confusion as to whether the animals in these stories needed help or not, and this makes the metaphor harder to understand. Further, since phrases such as "through the woods" and "making it to the other side" are important aspects of the metaphor, so you need to be sure they are referenced in the original stories.
- 4) Elaborate a bit more in your concluding paragraph how what you learned from your grandfather's death informs your work with patients and families. You say that it does (that is really the whole point of the essay), but we don't see it.
- 5) Eliminate the subheads. They are distracting and do not belong in a narrative essay.
- 6) Please review the attached for grammatical and stylistic issues that need to be addressed.
- 7) Although we have asked for a few additions, please keep the story within the 1000 word limit. With suggested edits, it is 991 words, so with a little more judicious pruning, you should be able to get it all in.

LETTER 2

I am pleased to inform you that your work has now been accepted for publication in *Families, Systems, and Health*. Thank you so much for the conscientious and meticulous work you put into this major revision. The new title works well. In particular, the rewriting of the introductory section is very effective and puts the rest of the essay in a much clearer context. You've also succeeded in explaining the metaphor of your grandfather's stories so that it is now clear how they are both similar and different from the circumstances of his dying. I also appreciate the elaboration you provide at the conclusion about how this experience has affected your professional focus by emphasizing how illness and death ripple out from the affected person to affect the entire family. You did such an excellent job that we have no further recommendations and are delighted to accept your submission as written.