

FSH REVIEW 2022 3 and 3a

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: Dear Author, 55 word stories are notoriously hard to write, and I commend you for this worthwhile effort. I very much liked the title of the piece and the way names became so important in helping the patient know who he was and what was wrong with him. I also liked the story's highlighting of the Undiagnosed Disease Network, which is a (relatively) unsung hero in assisting patients with unusual symptoms that resist easy categorization.

I couldn't really grasp the significance of the arrow structure of the story. Perhaps it was intended to convey the idea that the UDN pointed the patient in the direction of diagnosis and therefore hope? It struck me as a little gimmicky, but if it did have symbolic intent, then please keep it.

As above, I understand the constraints you're working within the 55 word form, but I still wish you'd been able to find words a bit more emotionally evocative than "heritage, community, clarity." At the end of the story, I felt gratitude for the existence of UDN, but not much toward the patient. The last word "Finally" does the heavy lifting to convey how the patient must have suffered and how relieved they felt after receiving a diagnosis, but it's a lot to ask of a single word. In that list, "starting points" and "an answer" are more effective because they are more concrete and suggest a new more focused journey beginning for the patient. Is there any way you could rework the above three words: Maybe "Answers. A new starting point. Caring community"? I'd encourage you to just play around with it a bit more.

Otherwise, I appreciated the writing and the organization it celebrates.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: Thank you for your thoughtful and creative revisioning of this 55 word story. I think you have succeeded in injecting a little more of the emotion into the piece (adding the word "terrifying" for example). Some of your word choices struck me as improvements: I liked "ancestral roots," for example, but others seemed excessively vague: "united front" and "unveiled truth" were too abstract I struggled to connect them to the name they were supposed to describe. I'd suggest you change "united front" back to "community and caring" or "community and support"; and "unveiled truth" to "causality" (also changing "causing" to "triggering" to avoid repetition). I also noticed the story was only 54 words, so these changes would bring it to 55 (see attached).

I have to admit that I struggled with the format of your work. The dotted lines were initially puzzling, then distracting. I agree they link the first part of the story to the second part, but they are decidedly odd. I also understand that you wish these words on the bottom to have a momentum of their own. Do you think the linkages are sufficiently obvious that these words could stand on their own without the lines?