

David Nyarko

March 6, 2018

Wit Reflection Paper

The movie *Wit* is about Professor Vivian Bering, a scholar of 17th century poetry. Early in the movie, she is diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer. Her doctor explains to her, the best treatment option would be to undergo intense chemotherapy treatment. Proudly embracing her strong personality, she decides to embark on this hard and painful road in hopes of surviving and beating death. From the beginning and by the end of the movie we learn many things; the little things in life matters and that sometimes simplicity and kindness means much more than the complex, how a disease as severe as cancer can cause the strongest willful people to become fearful and doubtful of themselves and life in general. The movie also portrays a behavior of doctors and nurses towards their patients.

As a professor of poetry, Vivian's main interests were in words and books. Even though she taught a classroom full of students, she failed to make any human connection with them. There was a scene where Vivian on her hospital bed recalls how she couldn't put herself in a student's shoes when his grandmother had died and needed more time to submit his paper. Now a patient in the hospital, she observes how her doctors fail to show her any empathy. To them she was a mere specimen of their research. All they had to do was keep her alive. On the other hand, her nurse Suzan displays empathy and tries to comfort her as much as possible. Suzan shows the importance of quality of life rather than prolongation. To be more specific she encourages Vivian to choose between a full code or DNR in the case Vivian was to enter a cardiac arrest. Nurse

Suzan even advocates for Vivian to receive a patient controlled analgesia so she could have control of her own pain management. Even when Vivian dies, Suzan continued to advocate for her; she prevented other health care providers from resuscitating Vivian.

In conclusion, the movie *Wit* not only showed the struggles of being a cancer patient, it revealed the perspective of health care workers and the importance of nurses advocating for their patients. Whether intentionally or unintentionally the movie also highlighted the importance of a health care proxy. It is therefore important as nurses to educate our patients on health care proxies. The movie also revealed the fear that dying patients have; the fear of the unknown.