

# The Park Lane Hospital for the Dying

*"Brave New World" is the dystopia of a world which is focused on pure functioning and economic efficiency. Even embryos and fetus are manipulated – and there are also certain rules for dying.*

1. Read chapter 14: "The Park Lane Hospital for the Dying" and answer the following questions:  
How are dying people parented in Park Lane Hospital?  
Which models or rather which idea of man does the care follow?  
What is its aim?
2. We know the idea of "Palliative Care".  
Find out the meaning of this term, for example at <http://en.wikipedia.org>.  
Answer the following questions:  
What is the difference between the idea of "Palliative Care" and the "Park Lane Hospital" in "Brave New World"?  
What do the two concepts have in common?
3. What does the "Death Conditioning" described at chapter 14 aim at?  
Which perception of dyings is presented to the children?  
Which is John's perception of dyings?

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## Didactic Advice

These exercises shall give impetus to deal – on the basis of “Brave New World” – with the issue in which degree different ideas of man and different social systems influence the process of dying. We suggest that you discuss every exercise with your pupils.

Below you find short summaries of the content of the exercises:

1. Read chapter 14: “The Park Lane Hospital for the Dying” and answer the following questions:

*How are dying people parented in Park Lane Hospital?*

*Which models or rather which idea of man does the care follow?*

*What is its aim?*

**The dying people get drugs, they shall daze off quietly and without realising it. The idea of man is a strictly materialistic one: If it is not working anymore, it is useless. Not the individual with its own value is important but the missing benefit for the society. The dyings shall be removed without attracting attention and without any effort.**

2. We know the idea of “Palliative Care”.

*Find out the meaning of this term, for example at <http://en.wikipedia.org>.*

*Answer the following questions:*

*What is the difference between the idea of “Palliative Care” and the “Park Lane Hospital” in “Brave New World”?*

*What do the two concepts have in common?*

**The most important difference is that within Palliative Care the dyings are seen as individuals who shall keep their dignity until the end of their lives. It is not important if somebody is useful for the society but how he can live as autonomous and as dignified as possible until his end. This approach is very contrary to the one in the Park Lane Hospital. Nevertheless there are some aspects the two concepts have in common: Within Palliative Care pain killers are also very important. But they are not used to sedate people. They should help the dyings to experience the end of their lives without pain.**

3. What does the “Death Conditioning” described at chapter 14 aim at?

*Which perception of dyings is presented to the children?*

*Which is John’s perception of dyings?*

**The children are taught that you don’t have to show special consideration for the dyings. They are told that they don’t say goodbye to individuals – but just to somebody who is not useful anymore.**

**In contrast to that John has a special relationship to the dyings, he wants to talk to them, wants to remember them. He sees the individual, not a “mass of man” which is not working anymore. For him the dyings are still human beings with their own dignity.**

**The ruling caste in “Brave New World” does not attribute any value to the dyings. They just have to be disposed with as little attention as possible. That is only working on the condition that nobody mourns their death. Therefore children are taught that the dyings are worthless and that they have to say goodbye to them without any grief.**