

What Could You Do?

"GIVING SUPPORT"
WORK SHEET

Think about what you could do in the following situations to help the person with cancer feel better. Discuss in your group all of your ideas, recognizing that the success of the ideas largely depends on the people involved and their relationships. Try to put yourself in the situation so that you feel your response as well as think about it.

1. GRANDFATHER

Your grandfather has cancer. He's pretty old, his cancer has spread from his pancreas to his liver, and he's been in either the hospital or this home for sick people for the past six months. Your father takes you to see him every Saturday, and you kind of hate it. He looks terrible, of course—very thin, very pale—and he makes weird noises with his mouth and nose. It's hard to hear him when he talks to you. The place kind of creeps you out. You've always liked your grandpa, and he always called you his favorite, but now what is there to do but to ask him how he is? What could you do?

2. MOTHER

Your mother took you aside last week and said that she's been seeing the doctor about a couple of tumors she discovered on her breast. She said that there's no way to know yet whether the tumors are malignant. If either one of them is—if either one of them is cancerous—then she's going to have to make some decisions about treatment. You're completely stunned by this news. Your mother is beautiful and energetic. She's young. You can't imagine her getting cancer—or having surgery. You can tell she's worried, not only for herself but for you, too. What could you do?

3. FRIEND

You have to admit it; the sight of your friend without her hair was very strange. You've seen pictures, of course, of people who were undergoing chemotherapy; it happens all the time. But it's a little bit different when it happens to someone you know. Jennifer pretends not to care about her baldness, and everyone else pretends not to care, too, but you can tell that people are staring at her—in school, in the neighborhood. You're never sure whether you should make jokes, ignore it, or what. You want to be a good friend. What could you do?