

Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care®
New Jersey Council for the Humanities
The Healthcare Foundation Center for Humanism and Medicine at
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ-NJMS)
2009 Syllabus

January 27

Perception, Denial and Disability

Planet of the Blind a memoir by Stephen Kuusisto

“Cathedral” a short story by Raymond Carver

February 24

Violence Visited

“Fissure” an essay in *The Best of the Bellevue Literary Review*

Lucky a memoir by Alice Sebold

March 10

Care of the Caretaker

“Driving the Heart” a short story by Jason Brown

“Initiation” a poem by Alice Ostriker in *The Best of the Bellevue Literary Review*

“Intensive Care” an essay from *Singular Intimacies* by Danielle Ofri, M.D.

“Love is Just a Four-Letter Word” an essay by David Watts in *The Best of the BLR*

“Professionals Don’t Cry” from *Kitchen Table Wisdom* by Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D.

“Breathing” a short story by Courtney Davis in *The Best of the BLR*

March 31

Institutions

“The Levitron” a short story by Robert Oldshue in *The Best of the BLR* (nursing home)

“Songs from the Black Chair” an essay by Charles Barber in *The Best of the BLR* (hospital)

“His Own Time” a short story by John Thompson in *The Best of the BLR* (prison)

“Prisoner” a poem by John Stone in *The Best of the BLR* (prison)

April 21

Coping with Death and Grieving

“Psalm,” “My Father’s Eyes,” and “The Last Day” poems from *The Father* by Sharon Olds

“A Small Good Thing” a story by Raymond Carver

May 12

The Will to Live, the Body-Mind, and the Cycle of Life

“Nesting in a Season of Light” an essay by Angela Wheelock in *The Best of the BLR*

“Traps” and “A Front Row Seat” from *Kitchen Table Wisdom* by Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D.

“The Bear” a poem by Galway Kinnell