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Dr. Gingrich 4th period

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### **Literature Character Story**

#### **Deceiving Doctors**

An alarming sound was emitted, a ding and then a dong

To the interns, it signaled their favorite song.

To put an end to the day, to induce the sighs

Even lovelier than the flowers of May, to the interns' eyes,

The minute hand of the clock indicated that it was afternoon at five.

Most of them scattered, going this way and that

Running and shoving into each other, resembling a horde of rats.

It was a stormy September evening in Seattle, Washington,

And the clock symbolized a sign of pardon,

From the interns' hectic work, diligence and pain.

It signaled the end to everyone's strain.

They all just wanted to go home and sleep,

For staying late to work at the hospital made them weep.

And as they packed their bags and got ready to leave,

Their resident in charge, whom they dreaded, named Steve,

Walked into the room and sat on the bench,

Appalled by the pungent locker room stench.

He had sat next to Paul, who was the loneliest of all

But loneliness didn't bother him.

For they had all worked hard to be in the position they were in

Privileged to be a part of the internship program, this meant every small mistake was a sin.

All of them were on their toes, never once slouching down

You could look across the room, and it would be full of frowns.

Friendships were not something that they were looking for,

Some had even come claiming that the meaning of life was more

Than to simply laugh and carry on, to pretend to accept that everything was

They refuted that the answer to life was not just a mere, "Just because,"

So Paul didn't mind that he had nobody to talk to.

Since honor and status was his goal,

Achieving it would be the only way to please his soul.

When Steve sat next to him, Paul paused for a while

And even when he gingerly looked over, he saw Steve smile.

*'Was it directed at him? Who was it for?'*

He had to think quickly because this was his superior; Paul shouldn't be a bore.

And so Paul smiled back, but it was a hesitant one

Yet he was determined to make the impression that he was fun.

But before Paul could speak or start a conversation

Steve interrupted rudely, losing his patience.

“Paul, I saw you talking to your patient today,

And the only reason I'm here is because I feel obligated to say,

As your direct superior, I must not only teach you lessons of medicine,

But also life lessons on how to be a better person.

Because patients seek for doctors' help,

And scientific answers will only make them yelp

Since medicinal terminology is essentially a new language to them,

We have to make the diagnosis clear and precise; the words are what we hem

To comfort the patient, whoever they are,

And that's how a doctor can go very far.”

Paul controlled his laughter and thought, “*Oh, god.*”

At first glance, Steve seemed sincere, yet Paul knew he was a fraud.

Doctor Steve was infamous for his lack of patient care,

And here he was mentoring Paul, on how to be fair.

Paul knew that the following conversation would be a waste of time,

So he tried to think of an excuse to leave while still being kind.

“Yes, I understand now, Doctor Steve. Thank you for the advice.

I’ll make sure that before I say anything to my patients, I’ll think twice.”

“No Paul, you don’t understand, I’m not quite done.

Stay with me for a while, and don’t try to run.”

Paul took a deep sigh of annoyance, but walked back over to the bench.

Then he crossed his arms with his jaw slightly clenched.

He had had enough of Steve’s plays, his lies and his games

For these were what had brought Steve his inglorious fame

Throughout the hospital, he was known to be boastful.

There had also been rumors spreading around

About how Steve would soon be home bound

Without a job and without a solid salary,

He’d have to rely on his poor wife, Valerie.

And despite all of the rumors, despite all of the talk,

Everyone felt it was best not to mock,

Steve, since after all, he was the resident; he still had power,

He'd take pleasure in firing and he would torture and devour

The interns' souls until they become despondent,

Steve's decisions were almost always stagnant.

So Paul made the right choice to stay and to listen

He was basically forced to; he had no right to make any other decision.

Steve began:

“Now let me tell you a story, one that used to bore me.

But as I progressed onto my second year of practice,

I realized that it wasn't at all what I had thought it was- useless.

When I was an intern, my wise resident told me this story

And that is the secret to my now achieved glory.

There once was a doctor who had a very big ego,

He barely passed all his tests; I swear he was a psycho.

But he deceived everyone else, all the doctors and the people

By pretending to be true and honest, pretending to believe in what we learn under the steeple

And he had thought his plan would work out till the end

Until one day, he realized he needed to mend

His sneaky tricks and his lies, his own way of living

If he had any goals, any intentions of staying

At this hospital; Yes, he was a doctor here

And this was not too far back, so you must revere

The moral of the story, when I'm finished,

I assure you, that it will prevent future anguish.

All the magazines found his work astounding,

And the public thought of him as repeatedly confounding.

As a result, his self-esteem shot up high

But one specific day, he was challenged, oh my,

It was a simple surgery; nothing more than the difficulty level of taking out a spleen,

But what had really happened on that day was something so unseen

To everyone, even him. He did not expect to make such an elementary mistake.

This surgery was basic; it was supposed to be a piece of cake.

And what made it worse was the identity of his patient, he was not just anyone

He was an astonishing surgeon himself, and he had come to this doctor, not just for fun.

The patient told the doctor that not only was his life at stake,

But also his patient's patients' lives, and this came as a wake

To the great doctor himself. He felt a little shaken,

For if he was to screw up, he'd be swallowed by Kraken

Which is the media and the people and the hospital itself

He would be fired, this would be the end.

Expectations were set extraordinarily high

But the deceiving doctor didn't let out a single sigh.

Many people believed that he would do well

This made the doctor's ego exponentially swell

When media asked him how he was going to perform surgery on a revolutionary doctor,

He shooed away the question and said, "Puh-lease,

To me, the patients' identities should not influence the art of surgery. So judging only the difficulty of the procedure, this will be a breeze."

And with this attitude, he entered the Operation Room

Prepared to finish the surgery with a zoom.

He extended his hand and said, "Ten blade"

And he expected all the tensions to seem miniscule and fade.

But unfortunately, that was not the case.

Suddenly images popped up in his mind- cameras, the media and his patient's face.

Right before he made the initial incision,

He started to doubt himself; he developed suspicion.

*What if I cannot perform this surgery? I have been believing my own lies.*

*I'm not a ground breaking doctor, not to my own critical eyes.*

*Finally it dawns upon me that I am probably not fit*

*I would not further continue the surgery, but society does not permit*

*Since I have lied through it all- medical college, university, job applications*

*Now I have thrust upon myself, numerous heavy burdens.*

*But what can I do? This is the price I must pay.*

*I will try my very best on this surgery, I will do it. Okay.*

And so the doctor comforted himself by saying that he would meet up to the name he had earned,

Straining to remember every small little detail that he had ever learned.

Yet the surgery was a disaster,

And he realized that his lies would stop deceiving hereafter.

He was immediately fired, for the patient had died on the operating table

And the board of surgeries knew that everything the doctor said would be a fable

For he had made the very first incision too deep,

And the heart rate monitor started to beep.



He had cut into the aorta of the heart

And everything went into chaos, blood started to squirt.

Onto his apron, onto his face, onto his latex-glove encompassed hands.

As he stood still while the truth sunk into him, the patient's blood slid down his surgeon pants.

And then came the final confirmation of the patient's death that signaled the mistake which on one could mend,

The never ending high pitched BEEEEEEEEEP of the heart rate monitor displayed that this was the end

To the patient's life, to the patient's outstanding achievements, to the doctor's career, to the lives

Of all the main characters in this story, and their grief-stricken wives.

So you understand, Paul, the moral of my tale?

Mind you, it is not that in any great trouble, you should not bail.

Because some people have mistaken it to be that,

But it is definitely not that, he should have bailed, and that is a fact.

All I am saying is that you must not be fooled

For a man with a long knife is not always a cook, although one may be lured

Into believing so.

Alright...well I'm done with this lesson,

But before you go,

I must warn you. In order to be a good doctor, you cannot just trick the people around you.

You must be the doctor you claim to be; otherwise, you'd be a fool.”

Paul thought about the story that Steve had just shared

And also about the moral that Steve had declared.

He wasn't lying, Paul knew the moral was valuable

But he didn't believe that both of them considered the story useful

For Steve showed no sign of working hard to be the great doctor he thought himself to be.

Yet he pretended he was one, and surrounded himself with glee.

So Paul took the message and ignored the messenger.

He promised himself that his goals would soon be accomplished and he would be the ultimate winner

With hard work, effort and some pain,

Paul would have so much to gain.

And so Paul left the hospital, feeling glad that he had stayed,

Having listened to the story and understanding the lesson that was portrayed.