

Virtual Mentor

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PERSONAL NARRATIVE

Through the Patient's Eyes: A Winter's Tale

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To arrive at the place where respectful, trusting, open, and truly informed patient-physician communications can take place, one begins by giving the patient undivided, close attention, listening for what is said as well as unsaid. To cultivate this habit of closely attending to another requires practice in listening and interpreting the language, voice, and intonations of others' speech. Through such conscious exercise, each of us also becomes more aware of our own speech affect. Every month, we will present narrated stories from the *JAMA* column *A Piece of My Mind* because spoken words reveal much about the relationship between patient and physician.

December Patient Story

Davis GJ. [A winter's tale](#). *JAMA*. 1997;277(15):1198.

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