

HUMILIATION

Directions: In the following story, the main character is humiliated several times. She is made to feel less than a full member of her community. Pick out as many examples of insensitive treatment as you can find and list them in the spaces below the story.

Mary was upset this morning. Her four-year old son John had fever again. This was the third time this week the child had been ill. She wanted to call a doctor but on welfare you didn't just call a doctor. In fact, you didn't just call anyone because you didn't have a telephone - at least she didn't.

Mary looked at the clock and it reminded her of how ripped off her whole life had been. The husband who stayed long enough to give her three children and then ran off with a waitress - The employer who fired her because she wouldn't play games with him - Her own parents who disowned her because she was divorced. And there was that clock with its broken plastic cover after just a week of use. How could you buy something that would last when you had so little money and no chance to shop where the real bargains were?

Well, Mary thought, I'll do what I can. I'll go and stand in the clinic line with little John and hope that the doctor who sees him knows what he is doing. Most of them don't or at least she didn't think they did. Then it would be off to the loan company to try to straighten out the computer error in her bill and then to beg the landlord for another week's grace. Poor guy, he never seemed to get his money.

All of a sudden Mary got weak. She felt sick inside. How was she going to do it all and who cared if she did or didn't. Death would be so much easier and so much less hassle. Maybe after death you didn't have everyone stepping on you all the time.

EXAMPLES OF HUMILIATION IN MARY'S STORY:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____