

Unit

3

Prose

In Celebration of Being Alive

Dr. Christiaan Barnard



Warm Up

There are several physically-challenged people who have lived successful and meaningful lives. Here are a few personalities who have fought great odds and lived a life of blazing achievements. Let's share what we know about each of them and complete the table below.

Name of the personality	Nature of challenge	Field of achievement
e.g. Beethoven	Hearing impairment	Music
Demosthenes		
Helen Keller		
Mariyappan Thangavelu		
Mozart		
John Milton		
Sudha Chandran		



We all know that Dr. Christiaan Barnard was the first doctor to perform a heart transplant surgery. Here we have an extract of his speech, wherein he narrates an experience, which has changed his perspective of life altogether. Let's find out what led to such a dramatic transformation.

1. More and more, as I near the end of my career as a heart surgeon, my thoughts have turned to the **consideration** of why people should suffer. Suffering seems so cruelly **prevalent** in the world today. Do you know that of the 125 million children born this year, 12 million are unlikely to reach the age of one and another six million will die before the age of five? And, of the rest, many will end up as mental or physical **cripples**.

2. My gloomy thoughts probably stem from an accident I had a few years ago. One minute I was crossing the street with my wife after a lovely meal together, and the next minute a car had hit me and knocked me into my wife. She was thrown into the other lane and struck by a car coming from the opposite direction.

3. During the next few days in the hospital, I experienced not only **agony** and fear but also anger. I could not understand