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Cancer is an extremely difficult element in one's life to try to deal with and overcome emotionally. For one being affected by this disease, experiencing feelings of remorse, anger, and confusion is inevitable. An effective way to begin confronting these negative thoughts is to read an inspiring piece of literature, one sharing similar concerns and relating in ordeals. A story that I recommend is "A Worn Path," by Eudora Welty.

Phoenix Jackson, the protagonist, is an old woman who lives in the country and constantly travels into town to acquire medicine for her grandson. While making this hazardous journey, Phoenix comes across many external obstacles. For example Jackson passes through deep woods, followed by a hill. She next struggles through a barbed-wire fence, a field, and then a swamp Jackson manages to overcome all of these impediments, despite her feeble body, with no thought in mind but the welfare of her grandson. Phoenix also contends with internal obstacles. For instance, Jackson has become senile and eccentric over time and then realizes that it is only her time. Early in her trip, she sits under a tree and imagines a slice of cake, an hour. When she reaches her destination, Phoenix does not respond to any questions and sits in a daze. Although Phoenix's memory and sanity have worsened, she manages to remember her purpose. In spite of all the conflicts that Jackson encounters she continues to proceed with total devotion to her grandson.

I can relate to Phoenix's situation and her dedication due to love. In 1993, I was diagnosed with a brain tumor. After treatment I entered remission for nine years, but then discovered that three tumors had developed in my brain. Due to the positions of the tumors my coordination, balance, mechanical skills, and ability to use my legs have deteriorated significantly.

I have questioned my faith in God, my position on this earth, and whether it is worth living this life. However, I have learned that I have family and friends who love and care for me. Just as Jackson perseveres because she loves her grandson, I persevere for the love of all those who support me. Their love for me is one of the sole reasons why I am here fighting this disease and striving to regain some control over my life.

In "A Worn Path," love is responsible for the life of the grandson and the devotion of the grandmother. Love is responsible for my dedication in confronting everyday and every treatment with a feeling of hope that, one day, I will have my life back. I recommend "A Worn Path" to those facing cancer because it contains hope, that through love this disease can be overcome. This story has given me the motivation and reason to fight to regain charge of my life. I believe that it has the power to do the same for others who are dealing with this condition,