

**the ARTICLE (for instructors)****Near-Death Experiences**

What happens when we die? Although both religion and science have separately attempted to provide an answer to this age-old question, neither has done so with any fair degree of success. Different faiths provide different opinions on the afterlife, all of which is wrapped up in strict dogma. Science has been satisfied with a clinical definition, referring to the point when a person's heart, lungs, and brain stop functioning. Real studies to find an answer have been few and far between, perhaps because of the social prejudices also attached. But a study about to begin will attempt to finally provide a clearer answer.

The study, known as AWARE, will continue for a three-year period in twenty-five medical centers throughout Canada, Europe, and the US. Some 1,500 survivors will be the test subjects, chronicling their near-death experiences. Many people on the brink of death have related similar information. As they hover above their bodies, fully aware of the actions transpiring below them, doctors frantically attempt to save their lives. Is this merely an illusion, some misfiring of the brain as it begins to die? Or is there some distinction between the brain and consciousness, with the latter continuing on even after the body dies?

In an attempt to answer this question in the purer light of science, pictures only visible from the ceiling will be placed in the medical centers. Short of climbing a ladder to get a look, the only other opportunity to see these pictures will be during one of these near-death experiences. If the person accurately reports on the contents of one of these pictures as he hovers above his body, then clearly a person's thoughts are separate from his physical self. We will be a step closer to answering the question: What happens when we die?

**Teacher's Notes:**

\* Underlined words in **red typeface** are the recommended vocabulary for this lesson.

## WARM-UPS

Select one or all of the following warm-up activities.

1. **Define:** What does "near-death experience" mean? Can you use it in a sentence? Can you give examples?
2. **Brainstorm:** Brainstorm with a partner(s) words and ideas associated with "near-death experience" for 2 minutes. Spend another 5 minutes or less discussing the words and ideas together.
3. **Title:** Speculate and/or discuss the contents of today's article from its title: "Near-Death Experiences"
4. **Speculate:** Write in the missing word for today's article title: "Near-( ) Experiences." Why did you choose this word for the blank?
5. **Do you agree or disagree? Why?**

a.	There is a Heaven and a Hell.
b.	We will never really know what happens after we die.
c.	I know someone who has had a near-death experience.
d.	I know someone who has seen a ghost.
e.	There is an afterlife of some kind.

## VOCABULARY

Select one of the following vocabulary acquisition activities.

**1. Vocabulary match:** Individually or in pairs/groups, match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B.

a.	age-old	q.	bias
b.	dogma	r.	happen
c.	clinical	s.	record
d.	prejudice	t.	teaching
e.	chronicle	u.	correct
f.	brink	v.	seeable
g.	transpire	w.	edge
h.	distinction	x.	ancient
i.	visible	y.	impersonal
j.	accurate	z.	difference

**2. Fill in the Blanks:** Fill in the blank with the correct word.

	transpiring	age-old	brink	dogma	prejudices
	clinical	chronicling	accurately	distinction	visible
a.	Both religion and science have separately attempted to provide an answer to this ( ) question.				
b.	Different faiths provide different opinions on the afterlife, all of which is wrapped up in strict ( ).				
c.	Science has been satisfied with a ( ) definition.				
d.	Real studies have been few and far between, perhaps because of the social ( ) also attached.				
e.	1,500 survivors will be the test subjects, ( ) their near-death experiences.				
f.	Many people on the ( ) of death have related similar information.				
g.	As they hover above their bodies, they are fully aware of the actions ( ) below them.				
h.	Is there some ( ) between the brain and consciousness, with the latter continuing on?				
i.	Pictures only ( ) from the ceiling will be placed in the medical centers.				
j.	If the person ( ) reports on the contents of these pictures, then a person's thoughts are separate.				

**3. Define:** Define each word, correctly pronounce it, explain the meaning and/or usage, and offer an example sentence to the class.

a.	age-old	c.	clinical	e.	chronicle	g.	transpire	i.	visible
b.	dogma	d.	prejudice	f.	brink	h.	distinction	j.	accurate

## WORD RECOGNITION

**1. Word Search:** Find the target words (in bold). Time yourself, and see how many words you can find in three minutes. In five minutes. In ten minutes.

<b>transpiring</b>	<b>age-old</b>	<b>brink</b>	<b>dogma</b>	<b>prejudices</b>
<b>clinical</b>	<b>chronicling</b>	<b>accurately</b>	<b>distinction</b>	<b>visible</b>
P R A W N T V O F R T S C K Z N E U C N I K O M R P E H N U X O D P S E A F A L S C R I H C A I I J A W N C Y S I O R U Y L B T M F S A U M Y D N B F M L I G C P E H H L V U I Q Y E M O N I N I G E D R J C C T D D Z R I Q I T A S D E A L W T G I B V C A T Z D L R L I F F N L N O R A Q S G L P I N E G Q N D U Y I L U I Q O N I C J N H C Q G J L O R D S G C V J T C D I S T I N T I O N I M V A S V D L O E G A X R S L K V E W G N I L C I N O R H C K				

**2. Target Word Pool:** Find the target words (in bold) with their exact match. Time yourself, and see how many words you can find in three minutes. In five minutes. In ten minutes.

<b>transpiring</b>	<b>age-old</b>	<b>brink</b>	<b>dogma</b>	<b>prejudices</b>
<b>clinical</b>	<b>chronicling</b>	<b>accurately</b>	<b>distinction</b>	<b>visible</b>
blinking prescient age-old dogmas clinician brink distinction critical inaccurate	chronicler clinic inspiring unprejudiced accurate visibly old age chronicling transpired visible	indistinct divisible ages-old dogma indistinctly presages doggedly agedly	invisible inaccurately distinctive chronicle transpire clinical chronicled bunker	criticizing blink dogs prejudice ageism accurately indivisible dogmatic prejudices transporting chronic

**pre- or post-COMPREHENSION**

**1. Word Association:** Brainstorm words associated with today's topic for two minutes. Present to the class.

**2. Brainstorm Questions:** Brainstorm questions that you would like to ask about today's topic. Answer the questions without looking at the article.

**3. True or False?:** Guess (before the article) or answer (after the article) whether the sentence is true or false. If false, correct the sentence.

a.	Both religion and science have satisfactorily answered what happens when we die.	T / F
b.	There haven't been many studies because it's impossible to find the answer.	T / F
c.	According to the article, people who have a near-death experience are aware of what is happening.	T / F
d.	The study has determined that consciousness and the brain are separate.	T / F
e.	There will be pictures in the medical centers really only visible during near-death experiences.	T / F

**4. Questions:** Answer the questions to check comprehension.

a.	What will the new study hope to answer?
b.	Where will the study be conducted?
c.	Who will participate in the study?
d.	How will the study be conducted?
e.	According to the article, what is a near-death experience?

**5. Vocabulary:** In pairs/groups, remember how the words were used in today's article.

a.	age-old	c.	clinical	e.	chronicling	g.	transpiring	i.	visible
b.	dogma	d.	prejudices	f.	brink	h.	distinction	j.	accurately

**6. Fragments:** Remember how the fragments were used, and complete the sentence from today's article.

a.	Different faiths provide different opinions on the afterlife, all of which...
b.	Real studies to find an answer have been few and far between, perhaps because of...
c.	The study, known as AWARE, will continue for a three-year period in...
d.	Short of climbing a ladder to get a look, the only other opportunity to see these pictures...
e.	We will be a step closer to answering the question...

**post-COMPREHENSION**

- 1. Vocabulary:** Circle any additional unknown words/phrases in the article. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the meanings. Present to the class.
- 2. Class Questions:** Read through the article once more, and write down any questions that you would like to discuss in pairs/groups or as a class. Discuss.
- 3. Summarize:** Work with a partner to summarize the article in your own words.
- 4. Discuss:** Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers!

a.	Did you like this article?
b.	What was your general impression after reading this article?
c.	What do you think happens after we die? Please explain.
d.	Do you think the study will find the answers that it's looking for? Why/not?
e.	The study sounds simple. Why hasn't a similar study been conducted in the past?
f.	Which do you have more faith in, religion or science? Why?
g.	What would happen to society, religion, etc. if the study discovered there isn't life after death?
h.	What would happen to society, religion, etc. if the study discovered there is life after death?
i.	If you met someone who had a near-death experience, what three questions would you like to ask him/her?
j.	How would a near-death experience possibly change your life? Would you even care?

- 5. Debate:** Imagine possible supporting evidence for the following opinions on near-death experience. Then work with a partner a debate each point. One student should support the statement and the other should oppose the statement. Limit the debate to each question to two-minutes.

**Statement #1: Nothing happens when we die. It's the end and there is no afterlife.**

**Statement #2: Good people go to a Heaven of some kind and sinful people go to Hell forever.**

**Statement #3: We are reincarnated and immediately return to Earth, but not necessarily as a human.**

**Statement #4: Our consciousness continues after we die, sort of like a ghost.**

- 6. Google Search:** Type "near-death experience" into Google news and read additional articles on this topic. Discuss or write an essay about your findings.

## STUDENT HANDOUT (the article)

### Near-Death Experiences

What happens when we die? Although both religion and science have separately attempted to provide an answer to this age-old question, neither has done so with any fair degree of success. Different faiths provide different opinions on the afterlife, all of which is wrapped up in strict dogma. Science has been satisfied with a clinical definition, referring to the point when a person's heart, lungs, and brain stop functioning. Real studies to find an answer have been few and far between, perhaps because of the social prejudices also attached. But a study about to begin will attempt to finally provide a clearer answer.

The study, known as AWARE, will continue for a three-year period in twenty-five medical centers throughout Canada, Europe, and the US. Some 1,500 survivors will be the test subjects, chronicling their near-death experiences. Many people on the brink of death have related similar information. As they hover above their bodies, fully aware of the actions transpiring below them, doctors frantically attempt to save their lives. Is this merely an illusion, some misfiring of the brain as it begins to die? Or is there some distinction between the brain and consciousness, with the latter continuing on even after the body dies?

In an attempt to answer this question in the purer light of science, pictures only visible from the ceiling will be placed in the medical centers. Short of climbing a ladder to get a look, the only other opportunity to see these pictures will be during one of these near-death experiences. If the person accurately reports on the contents of one of these pictures as he hovers above his body, then clearly a person's thoughts are separate from his physical self. We will be a step closer to answering the question: What happens when we die?

**Notes:**

**STUDENT HANDOUT (fill in the blank)**

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

<b>prejudices</b>	<b>step</b>	<b>visible</b>	<b>clinical</b>	<b>centers</b>
<b>transpiring</b>	<b>science</b>	<b>chronicling</b>	<b>accurately</b>	<b>dogma</b>
<b>misfiring</b>	<b>age-old</b>	<b>distinction</b>	<b>purser</b>	<b>brink</b>

**Near-Death Experiences**

What happens when we die? Although both religion and (a. \_\_\_\_\_) have separately attempted to provide an answer to this (b. \_\_\_\_\_) question, neither has done so with any fair degree of success. Different faiths provide different opinions on the afterlife, all of which is wrapped up in strict (c. \_\_\_\_\_). Science has been satisfied with a (d. \_\_\_\_\_) definition, referring to the point when a person's heart, lungs, and brain stop functioning. Real studies to find an answer have been few and far between, perhaps because of the social (e. \_\_\_\_\_) also attached. But a study about to begin will attempt to finally provide a clearer answer.

The study, known as AWARE, will continue for a three-year period in twenty-five medical (f. \_\_\_\_\_) throughout Canada, Europe, and the US. Some 1,500 survivors will be the test subjects, (g. \_\_\_\_\_) their near-death experiences. Many people on the (h. \_\_\_\_\_) of death have related similar information. As they hover above their bodies, fully aware of the actions (i. \_\_\_\_\_) below them, doctors frantically attempt to save their lives. Is this merely an illusion, some (j. \_\_\_\_\_) of the brain as it begins to die? Or is there some (k. \_\_\_\_\_) between the brain and consciousness, with the latter continuing on even after the body dies?

In an attempt to answer this question in the (l. \_\_\_\_\_) light of science, pictures only (m. \_\_\_\_\_) from the ceiling will be placed in the medical centers. Short of climbing a ladder to get a look, the only other opportunity to see these pictures will be during one of these near-death experiences. If the person (n. \_\_\_\_\_) reports on the contents of one of these pictures as he hovers above his body, then clearly a person's thoughts are separate from his physical self. We will be a (o. \_\_\_\_\_) closer to answering the question: What happens when we die?



## STUDENT HANDOUT (extended listening)

Listen and fill in the missing sentences. Compare answers with a partner, and then listen once more.

### Near-Death Experiences

What happens when we die? a) \_\_\_\_\_, neither has done so with any fair degree of success. Different faiths provide different opinions on the afterlife, all of which is wrapped up in strict dogma. Science has been satisfied with a clinical definition, referring to the point when a person's heart, lungs, and brain stop functioning. b) \_\_\_\_\_ perhaps because of the social prejudices also attached. But a study about to begin will attempt to finally provide a clearer answer.

The study, known as AWARE, will continue for a three-year period in twenty-five medical centers throughout Canada, Europe, and the US. c) \_\_\_\_\_. Many people on the brink of death have related similar information. As they hover above their bodies, fully aware of the actions transpiring below them, doctors frantically attempt to save their lives. Is this merely an illusion, some misfiring of the brain as it begins to die? d) \_\_\_\_\_?

In an attempt to answer this question in the purer light of science, pictures only visible from the ceiling will be placed in the medical centers. Short of climbing a ladder to get a look, e) \_\_\_\_\_. If the person accurately reports on the contents of one of these pictures as he hovers above his body, then clearly a person's thoughts are separate from his physical self. We will be a step closer to answering the question: What happens when we die?

**STUDENT HANDOUT (activities)**

## ANSWER KEY

### Vocabulary

#### 1. Vocabulary Match:

a.	x	f.	w
b.	t	g.	r
c.	y	h.	z
d.	q	i.	v
e.	s	j.	u

#### 2. Fill in the Blanks:

a.	age-old	f.	brink
b.	dogma	g.	transpiring
c.	clinical	h.	distinction
d.	prejudices	i.	visible
e.	chronicling	j.	accurately

### pre- or post-Comprehension

#### 1. True or False:

a.	F
b.	F
c.	T
d.	F
e.	T

#### 2. Fragments:

a.	is wrapped up in strict dogma.
b.	the social prejudices also attached.
c.	twenty-five medical centers throughout Canada, Europe, and the US.
d.	will be during one of these near-death experiences.
e.	What happens when we die?

### Student Handout

#### 1. Fill in the Blanks

a.	science	i.	transpiring
b.	age-old	j.	misfiring
c.	dogma	k.	distinction
d.	clinical	l.	purser
e.	prejudices	m.	visible
f.	centers	n.	accurately
g.	chronicling	o.	step
h.	brink		

#### 2. Extended Listening

a.	Although both religion and science have separately attempted to provide an answer to this age-old question
b.	Real studies to find an answer have been few and far between
c.	Some 1,500 survivors will be the test subjects, chronicling their near-death experiences
d.	Or is there some distinction between the brain and consciousness, with the latter continuing on even after the body dies
e.	the only other opportunity to see these pictures will be during one of these near-death experiences