

Courage

In “The Prisoner Who Wore Glasses,” by Bessie Head, Brille exhibits significant courage in spite of the dire situation that faces him. This courage allows him to overcome the odds and improve the situation for the prisoners in Span One. Courage is not always so dramatic though. Everyday life takes a lot of courage as well. I would like you to consider the ways in which you have shown, or seen, courage in your lifetime. On a separate sheet of paper, write or type responses to the following prompts:

1. What’s your personal definition of courage?
2. Have there been times in your life when you’ve needed to be courageous? Write briefly about one of those times.
3. Is there someone else in your life whom you would characterize as courageous? If so, in what ways?
4. How were your views of courage shaped? How did family attitudes, movies, and books influence your beliefs about courage? Of these, which seems the most important or influential?
5. Sometimes, it takes courage just to be yourself in the face of a societal norm that doesn’t accept you. Are you or do you know someone like this? How so?
6. Complete the following sentences: “Every day, I am afraid of ...” and “Every day, I show courage by ...”
7. Describe an area of your life in which you wish you were more courageous? What is it, and how would you benefit?