

"It's so white", Pa Andrew thought as he lay face up, staring at the ceiling. 82 and hypertensive, much of living had become resting — a fancy term for only being able to take a few steps each day and being pumped full of drugs. The ceiling reminded him of the radiant white Martha had worn 52 years ago to say 'I do'. She still doted on him as she has always done, and as he lay there reminiscing the countless days they had spent together, the life they had built, a tear escaped his right eye and he smiled and took a deep breath. For the last time.

Across town, life was just beginning for Yumi. As she prepared to get to school, she noticed her hands shaking and rubbed them against each other mindlessly. She could barely contain her excitement. Tergun had asked her yesterday to be his girlfriend and she said yes. She considered herself a bit of a late bloomer, what with having her first relationship in her second year of college. She hurriedly left her dorm and hopped-stepped-jumped across the road. The porsche was coming at her at breakneck speed and her eyes met those of the driver's just as he sent her six feet into the air. Her body found the earth less than a second later with a force that stopped her heart instantly.

## Questions

- What emotions accompany the thought of death — the awareness of your own mortality — for you?
- It could be something that could meet us so suddenly and swiftly as it did Yumi. It could also wait us out as it did Pa Andrew. But that certainty eludes us. How could we live in the meantime?
- Why is the topic of death an uncomfortable one for so many? It happens everyday around us afterall. Are we afraid of death? Or of dying and the pain and suffering that often come with it?
- Do people that work high-risk jobs — law enforcement, pilots — have this conversation? Or is it even more of a taboo because of their proximity to it. Do 'regular' people even? Should we?
- What happens to your money if death comes calling suddenly? How many password-protected PiggyVest accounts with no registered next of kin are there, do you think?

- Older people tend to prepare — have life insurance and all of that — but what provisions do younger people make? Do these things even matter ultimately?