



Jenny Downham: Before I die

CHAPTER 1

WRITING TIPS

- Do NOT start a sentence with *and*, *but*, *or*, *because*.
 - Word order: subject – verb – object – place – time
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Part 1: General questions

Please answer in complete sentences. Choose **4 out of 5** questions.

1. Who is telling the story? What do we learn about her?
 2. What is Tessa thinking about while lying in bed?
 3. What do we find out about Tessa's illness?
 4. How does her father react to her actions?
 5. What do we learn about Tessa's personality?
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Part 2: Vocabulary

Find the meanings of these words and write a sentence with each. Choose **4 out of 5** words.

1. diagnosis
 2. whisper
 3. sunset
 4. wish
 5. strength
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Part 3: Discussion & Interpretation

Please write a short answer for **4 out of 5** questions.

1. The book starts with: "I want to live before I die." What does this mean for Tessa?
 2. Why do you think is making a list important to Tessa?
 3. How does her illness affect her choices?
 4. Do you understand Tessa's father? Why or why not? Give a minimum of two reasons.
 5. What would you do if you had little time left to live?
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Part 4: Creative Writing

Choose **one** of the following tasks:

- Imagine you are Tessa. Write a short diary entry about her feelings in Chapter 1.
- Write a letter from Tessa to a friend, explaining what she wants to do before she dies.