

Small-Group Activity | Leo Tolstoy's *The Death of Ivan Ilych*
The Interpretation of Literature: "Leaving Normal"

The group assignments are as follows:

- ❖ Praskovya Fedorovna Mikhel (Ivan's wife)
- ❖ Lisa (Ivan's daughter) and her fiancé
- ❖ The doctors
- ❖ His friends (especially those with whom he plays cards)
- ❖ His work associates
- ❖ Gerasim

Part 1 | As a group, determine the attitude toward Ivan's illness that your assigned character or group of characters take(s). Locate and write on a sheet of paper quotes to support your claim about this attitude in response to Ivan's poor health.

Part 2 | As a class, discuss how the narrator presents each attitude toward illness. Does the narrator seem to think one attitude is correct, or at least preferable to another? Is the narrator particularly critical toward one character's or group's treatment of Ivan? Explain.

