

Ex-US President shaves head to help boy

27th July, 2013



Ex-U.S. President George H.W. Bush has shaved his head to make a 2-year-old boy feel better. The boy, Patrick, is the son of one of Mr Bush's bodyguards. The little boy has a blood disease called leukemia. When people have treatment for leukemia, all their hair falls out. Bush said he wanted to help Patrick. Mr Bush's friend

said the former president, 89, now looks the same as Patrick. He said: "It's hard to tell them apart." Mr Bush, and his wife Barbara, also made a donation to help pay for Patrick's medical bills. There is also a special website for Patrick where people can give money for his expensive treatment. The website was set up by Mr Bush's other bodyguards. They also shaved their head.

Mr And Mrs Bush lost their second child, a daughter, to leukemia 60 years ago. The little girl, named Robin, was just four years old. They worked hard for many years after to raise money for leukemia research. A special clinic called the Robin Bush Child and Adolescent Clinic opened at a hospital in Houston, Texas in 2004. Leukemia is a kind of cancer of the blood. It used to kill many people, but nowadays those with the disease can get treatment at hospital. It is a lot easier to cure children than adults. Anyone, at any age, can get leukemia. Wikipedia says that in the year 2000, around "256,000 children and adults around the world developed some form of leukemia, and 209,000 died from it".

Sources: *Chron.com / Star-Telegram / Wikipedia*

Writing

Governments should do a lot more to find cures for diseases. Discuss

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

ex- / shaved / feel better / bodyguards / disease / leukemia / donation / tell apart / losing a child / worked hard / raise money / clinic / treatment / cure / nowadays

True / False

- The President of the USA shaved his head. T / F
- The little boy in the story is two years old. T / F
- Someone said the little boy and the president look exactly the same. T / F
- A team of bodyguards also shaved their head. T / F
- A past president raised money for leukemia after his son died. T / F
- The past president opened a leukemia clinic in Washington D.C. T / F
- It's more difficult to cure adults with leukemia than it is children. T / F
- The article says over 200,000 died from leukemia last year. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1. ex- | a. gift |
| 2. hard | b. only |
| 3. donation | c. started |
| 4. treatment | d. collect / get |
| 5. set up | e. former |
| 6. just | f. sort / type / kind |
| 7. raise | g. today |
| 8. nowadays | h. difficult |
| 9. cure | i. medical care |
| 10. form | j. heal |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about this news story?
- What do you know about ex-U.S. President George H.W. Bush?
- What do you think of Mr Bush's actions?
- What do you know about leukemia?
- How would you feel if all your hair fell out?
- Will you donate money via the website to help Patrick?
- Should the government pay to give children the treatment they need?
- What questions would you like to ask Patrick?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Ex- | a. donation |
| 2. make a 2-year-old boy | b. treatment |
| 3. It's hard to tell | c. at hospital |
| 4. made a | d. their second child |
| 5. give money for his expensive | e. feel better |
| 6. Mr And Mrs Bush lost | f. children than adults |
| 7. raise | g. form of leukemia |
| 8. get treatment | h. them apart |
| 9. It is a lot easier to cure | i. money for leukemia research |
| 10. developed some | j. U.S. President |

Discussion – Student B

- What are your favourite charities?
- Should children learn about diseases like leukemia at school?
- What can people do to raise more money for charities?
- Do you think leukemia will disappear one day?
- What special clinics are there where you live?
- How could you help a child with leukemia?
- Have you ever had an expensive medical bill?
- What questions would you like to ask Mr Bush?

Spelling

- one of Mr Bush's rogaddbusy
- The little boy has a blood deiseas
- have atttemrne for leukemia
- the fomrre president
- made a itnondao
- liedcma bills
- a dhrueagt
- raise money for leukemia rheecsra
- A special cincli
- a kind of rnccca of the blood
- a lot easier to ruec children
- dveeeldop some form of leukemia

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. a	4. i	5. c
6. b	7. d	8. g	9. j	10. f

Speaking – How to help

Who could these people help and what could they do? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

U.S. President
U.N. Secretary-General
Top Hollywood actor
Boss of Apple

Speaking

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best cause at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| • leukemia research | • Save The Children |
| • injured soldiers | • Red Cross / Red Crescent... |
| • Greenpeace | • World Wildlife Fund (WWF) |
| • help a child read | • castle restoration project |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.