



## Andrew

a study period.” Heather packed half of Andrew’s books in his dilapidated bag and the other half under her arm.

“Hey, at least I agreed to one study period next semester. You know Dad says I should make the most out of my education while it’s free, and if I can get college credits in high school instead of paying out the nose for them later ...”

“Yes, I suppose he’s right.” Heather had heard the arguments before, but she also thought that a person should be able to enjoy his high school years. “Well, one week down, only thirty-five more to go.

“Hey, I was hoping we could go see Steven tonight at St. Jude Hospital. It’s a miracle that he has lasted this long, after the scare he gave us a couple weeks back. Oh! That sounded awful; what I meant was, it’s amazing that he is doing as well as he is.”

Andrew slammed his locker shut and spun the dial on the padlock, just for good measure. He slipped his hand into Heather’s free one as they exited Greyburn High and headed for the parking lot. It was one of those crisp, clear autumn afternoons that made Andrew feel very thankful to be alive and with Heather at his side he felt like he was on cloud nine. “Don’t think that will work out tonight. William invited the guys out to his ranch for a wiener roast. I thought maybe if I sacrificed my Saturday for homework I could swing that.”

“Oh, Andy, there will be other times for that. I just have this feeling that Steven hasn’t got much longer, and wouldn’t we feel awful if he were to ... you know, pass away? And we hadn’t seen him in months? We could even go right after we get off work at five, and you could still make it out to William’s by six. Wouldn’t that give you enough time?”

“Aw, I suppose you’re right.” Andrew felt a little put out by this change of plans, but the more he thought about it the more he realized he really would like to see Steven again. He remembered