

Coping With Polio and a Demanding Stepfather

Summarize this story in one sentence.

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1. How old was Tom when he contracted polio?
 2. What year was it?
 3. How many other people were affected by the polio epidemic?
 4. How long did he stay in the hospital?
 5. Describe his condition when he was released from the hospital.
 6. Who took care of him?
 7. How did his mother spoil him?
 8. Why do you think she did this?
 9. Who was concerned about this and why do you think he was concerned?

10. How did Tom's step-father convince his wife to leave the house?

11. What did Tom's stepfather do for a living?

12. What did his stepfather do as soon as Tom's mother had driven away?

13. What was Tom's initial reaction?

14. Despite this feeling, what did he try to do?

15. What was his stepfather's reaction?

16. Why did Tom and his stepfather keep this activity a secret?

Conversation and Writing Questions

- 1. How much doting on children is good? How much is too much?*
- 2. Describe an experience you have had, or someone you know has had, with illness or hospitals.*
- 3. Describe a difficulty you have overcome.*
- 4. Are mothers and fathers different in the way they treat their children? Explain.*