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Reading Parker Palmer's *Let Your Life Speak* was not only enlightening and inspirational, but it also allowed me to think back on our case subjects and reflect on them more deeply in terms of career development. While each of the characters that we studied worked hard and created for himself / herself a successful livelihood and career, the journeys that they took, and their motivations for taking their chosen paths, were different for each person. Of the many people we read about or studied, Jane Tompkins, Danielle Ofri, Linda Greenlaw, and Lowell Bergman fit most comfortably into Palmer's style of career development. Each of these people underwent a "soul-searching" moment or series of moments that helped to determine who they are as people and truly understand why they want to do the work that they do.

Danielle Ofri is a successful, well-trusted doctor not just because she studied hard in medical school, but because she understands what it means to be a doctor in every sense of the word. Because Ofri wants so much to *heal* those who enter her office seeking her help, she first listens to and learns as much about her patients as she can. Understanding that people need and deserve to be heard, Ofri aims to heal people's souls as well as their bodies. Ofri, in her book, became extremely frustrated and upset when she had trouble locating the correct office for her own amniocentesis appointment and again when her co-worker Kimberly dismissed Mrs. Binet's "terminal illness" as just another patient issue. Both examples show Ofri's disappointment in the lack of human understanding and caring in the world and work of medicine. Ofri's mission as a doctor is to touch her patients, both physically (holding their hands) and emotionally (listening), and to help them the best she can with her medical knowledge. More than anything, Ofri wants to add compassion and humanity to any life that might be in need of it because that's her nature to work that way, and by following the path that she was meant to travel adds to the quality of her own life as well.

Linda Greenlaw is another person who examined her own mind and feelings in order to give and be the best at her job. As a career deep sea fisherman, Greenlaw not only dedicated herself to a life of demanding physical tasks, but she also committed herself to learning the best ways to deal with and lead her crew members. Several times throughout the book we saw Linda thinking through the best ways to solve problems or issues that arose among the crew members. Each time Linda searched within herself for the most respectful and just way to solve the problem and to maintain her relationship with her crew. The fact that Greenlaw admitted that she sacrificed having a husband and family says that she studied herself, and will likely continue to study herself, so that she can *hear* and *understand* her own voice if her heart ever decides that the time is right to move on to a new career. Linda Greenlaw spent her days seeking out the truth of herself and *getting into* her inner doubts and fears by facing them daily on the open waters of the ocean. By following *her nature*, Linda Greenlaw defied society's rules and norms and became the great fisherman that she knew she was meant to be.

Jane Tompkins in *A Life in School* certainly went through several years of searching for her true self in order to find happiness in both her personal and professional lives. Her many years of uneasiness from constant study and learning in accordance to the rules of

educational institutions left Tompkins feeling lost and frustrated. Until Jane was able to *get into* her own mind and face her fears and their origins, her life continued to roll out of control. Once Jane began listening to her inner thoughts and dealing with her feelings about her childhood and school experiences, she was able to begin acting as *herself* instead of who she thought she *ought* to be for everyone else.

The other aspect of Jane Tompkins' life that Palmer's idea of career development applies to is her allowing her soul to lead her into directions where the end result was unknown. Tompkins stated that "Trusting myself in small ways- no prophetic wisdom-led me on." It is that listening to and trusting of the inner voice and soul to lead to where one should exist and be that Palmer wants people to experience. Jane Tompkins, in a long, emotional journey, did just that, and by doing so found her true self and her true abilities to learn and teach. Tompkins herself suggests toward the end of the book (and her own journey) that students, and society, would both be better off if "universities conceived education less as training for a career than as the introduction to life."

Another subject, and probably my favorite out of all that we studied, is Lowell Bergman. Bergman, in a career where betrayal and dishonesty are more common than not, strove to remain respected and respectable in his field of journalism. As a man who spends his days searching out important stories to share with the public, Bergman easily could have gotten his information about Wigand and big tobacco in ways that were less than honest. To Bergman, though, it was honesty and trust that kept him focused on his work. When Wigand began to doubt Bergman's credibility and character, Bergman was genuinely insulted. Bergman knew himself to be worthy of trust, so any doubt from his sources, especially Wigand, because of the seriousness of the situation, about Bergman's loyalty to them was unacceptable. Bergman needed to be known and understood for who he was in his soul and he would accept no less. When it came time to fight CBS for the original story to be aired so as to inform the public of the dishonest practices of the big tobacco companies, Bergman again had to follow his soul and do the right thing. All though the decision to fight CBS seemed to be a *way closing* for Bergman, it was actually *way opening* to a career that better suits his honest nature.

Parker Palmer