

# A Lion in the House

a film by Steven Bognar & Julia Reichert

**Note to Teachers:** This is an abbreviated list of cancer terms used primarily in this project. A list of more than 4,000 cancer-related terms, in which the terms are defined in non-technical language, is available online at the National Cancer Institute website, <http://www.cancer.gov/dictionary/> and on the Teens Living with Cancer website, <http://teenswithcancer.org/>.

## Cancer Terms and Vocabulary

**Acute lymphoblastic Leukemia** – This is the most common form of childhood cancer and is also known as childhood leukemia.

**Benign** – A non- life-threatening condition.

**Bone Marrow** – Spongy tissue in the center of most bones. It is bone marrow that produces white and red blood cells and platelets.

**Brain Cancer** – This is the most common solid tumor cancer in childhood.

**Cancer** – Any disease in which abnormal cells go “haywire” or divide uncontrolled. These cells can spread to nearby tissue or get into the bloodstream and invade other parts of the body.

**Carcinoma** – A cancer that begins in the skin or in the lining of internal organs.

**Chemotherapy** – This is a cancer treatment in which drugs are administered which kill cancer cells.

**Infections** – Children who are being treated for cancer, especially those in chemotherapy, commonly pick up bacterial or viral infections because the chemo suppresses their immune system.

**Leukemia** – The most common form of childhood cancer. This type of cancer starts in blood-forming tissue such as the bone marrow, and causes large numbers of blood cells to be produced and enter the bloodstream. The disease comes on quickly.

**Lymphoma** – This is a type of cancer that begins in the immune system. Lymphomas can be slow or fast-growing cancers and respond to treatment differently, depending on the type of lymphoma

**Malignant** – Cells in these tumors are abnormal. These cells can also break away and enter the blood stream or lymphatic system.

**Metastasize or Metastatic Cancer** – Cancer cells that have spread throughout the body, causing other cancers.

**Oncologist** - A physician who specializes in cancer.

**Oncology** - Study of the physical, chemical, and biological properties and features of cancer.

**Pediatric Oncologist** – A health care provider who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of children’s cancers.

**Radiation Therapy** – This type of treatment uses x-rays to kill cancer cells and shrink tumors. Radiation Therapy can be administered by using a machine, or by implanting radioactive material in the body near cancer cells.

**Risk Factors** – Behaviors (like smoking, being out in the sun without protection) or other circumstances (like family history) that may increase your risk of cancer.

**Sarcoma** – A cancer that begins in bone, fat, muscle cartilage, blood vessels or other types of connective or supportive tissues.

**Stages of Cancer** – The progression of cancer as it grows. An oncologist assigns a number to each of several risk categories to indicate the severity of a cancer.

You can make a difference

“You know you are truly alive  
when you are living among lions.”  
— Isak Dinesen