

## The Role of Death

The ultimate truth of life is that it will end. Whether death will be the end of one journey or the beginning of another, we cannot escape it. As humans we generally try to ignore the dark cloud looming over our lives, the clock ticking down in the distance. But it is there. Sometimes death obsesses us, though. It is our nature to get tunnel-vision. We focus on the destination, not on the journey. When we have this perspective, we begin to wonder at the purpose. If we know that there is zero chance for survival, then why even try? We see this happen to Billy Pilgrim in *Slaughterhouse Five*. He is so caught up in his birth and death, the red hum and the purple hum that he forgets the spectrum in between. Death is not simply the end to suffering, it is the end to life. This is stating the obvious, yet so many people forget that the glass has two sides. Life is neither bad nor good; it just is. We can either dwell on beginnings and endings while floating through life, or we can live our middle to the fullest and enjoy every minute. Death should not frighten nor depress us; it should simply inspire us. It is as we face death that we show our true colors and begin to live life to the fullest. We must act today, for what if we do not have a tomorrow? Ignore the red and purple; it is the oranges, yellows, greens, and blues that mean the most. We have only one life to live. Mark Twain summarized these feelings best when he said, "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." We cannot live our lives as we wait to die. We must act. Now.