GT Grand Rounds
Clinical Center NIH
September 12, 2007

The Vocation of Medicine: Lessons from Real and Imagined Physicians
Paul Plotz, M.D.

Read aloud in the lecture

The Physician Himself and What He Should Add To His Scientific Acquirements
D. W. Cathell, M.D. Second Edition - Carefully Revised 1882

The Doctor Despite Himself (translated by J. Wood & D. Coward)
Molière 1666

Middlemarch - Book II, Chapter XV
George Eliot (pen name of Mary Ann Evans) 1875

A Fortunate Man
John Berger 1967

“The Patient Examines the Doctor” from “Intoxicated by My Illness”
Anatole Broyard 1990

“The Practice” from “The Autobiography” in The Doctor Stories
William Carlos Williams 1962

Ward Six - (translated by Ann Dunnigan, Signet 1965)
Anton Chekhov 1892

Cancer Ward - Part II, Chapter 9 (translated by N. Bethell & D. Burg)
Alexander Solzhenitsyn 1968

Fathers and Sons - Chapter XXVII (translated by Ralph Matlaw)
Ivan Turgenev 1861

An earlier version of this lecture was given to ΑΩΑ at Downstate Medical Center in April 2003
Some other readings

Ruth Abram  “Send us a Lady Physician” - Women Doctors in America
Thomas Browne  Religio Medici
Albert Camus  The Plague
Anton Chekhov  Three Sisters
A.J.Cronin  The Citadel
Charles Dickens  Bleak House
Anne Fadiman  The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down
F. Scott Fitzgerald  Tender is the Night
Gustave Flaubert  Madame Bovary
E. M. Forster  A Passage to India
Nathaniel Hawthorne  The Scarlet Letter
Henrik Ibsen  An Enemy of the People
Sarah Orne Jewett  A Country Doctor
Sinclair Lewis  Arrowsmith
Alan Lightman  The Diagnosis
W. Somerset Maugham  Of Human Bondage
William Osler  Aequanimitas
Richard Powers  Operation Wandering Star
Mary Shelley  Frankenstein
Susan Sontag  Illness as Metaphor
Robert Louis Stevenson  Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
Morton Thompson  Not as a Stranger
Leo Tolstoy  The Death of Ivan Illych
Anthony Trollope  Dr. Thorne
Ivan Turgenev  A Month in the Country
Joseph Turow  Playing Doctor - Television, Storytelling, and Medical Power
Martin Winckler  The Case of Doctor Sachs

Also, works by Walker Percy, Oliver Sacks, Richard Seltzer, Sherwin Nuland, Abraham Verghese, Jerome Groopman, Atal Gowande