

Angela L. Chandler, MD

THE DANCE

Address correspondence
and reprint requests to Dr.
Angela L. Chandler, Baptist
Neurological Associates, 1151
North State Street, Suite 404,
Jackson, MS 39202
alcmd@bellsouth.net

At 38, we are the same age.
I walk with a normal stride, arms swinging rhythmically, keeping time with my feet.
Heel-toe, heel-toe.
He dances to his own drum.
Sometimes heel-toe but often toe-toe.
Sometimes with an unexpected syncopated step that literally sweeps him off his feet.

We are the same age.
I drink coffee without thought from an unlidded cup, hoping I don't burn my tongue.
He enjoys the smell of coffee having long ago forsaken it.
Many futile attempts to pour the dark liquid down his throat ended with the fruits of that labor staining his pants.
Starched khakis that he had pressed with determination and difficulty.
Hoping he didn't burn his hand.

We are the same age.
I remember when we played in the empty lots behind our houses.
Playing tag and climbing trees.
Our imaginations creating new worlds for us.
Time standing still.
He remembers my face but not always my name.
His world is at times familiar and yet somehow very strange.
Time, like his body, has moved too fast for him.

We are the same age.
I look forward to the future I will spend with my family once my years of working are finished.
Children and grandchildren by my side.
He waits for family members to visit.
But they are no more.
Having danced their last steps one by one.
For now, he alone remains.
Until he dances no more.

Neurology[®]

Reflections for February: The Dance

Angela L. Chandler

Neurology 2011;76;581

DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e31820af985

This information is current as of February 7, 2011

Updated Information & Services	including high resolution figures, can be found at: http://n.neurology.org/content/76/6/581.full
Subspecialty Collections	This article, along with others on similar topics, appears in the following collection(s): All Movement Disorders http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/all_movement_disorders Chorea http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/chorea Huntington's disease http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/huntingtons_disease
Permissions & Licensing	Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at: http://www.neurology.org/about/about_the_journal#permissions
Reprints	Information about ordering reprints can be found online: http://n.neurology.org/subscribers/advertise

Neurology® is the official journal of the American Academy of Neurology. Published continuously since 1951, it is now a weekly with 48 issues per year. Copyright © 2011 by AAN Enterprises, Inc.. All rights reserved. Print ISSN: 0028-3878. Online ISSN: 1526-632X.

