CHAPTER 4 SELF-ASSESSMENT

Illness and Personal Identity

Match each item on the left with the corresponding explanation on the right, then answer the question below.

1. Contingent personal identity
2. Supernormal identity
3. Salvaged self
4. Personal identity
5. Narrative
6. Restored self

A. The second stage in reaction to a chronic illness, during which the person is less optimistic than at first, but still feels that the illness will not significantly change him or her.
B. A relatively enduring set of characteristics that define a person.
C. The third stage in reaction to a chronic illness, during which the person begins to see that his or her abilities and identity are changed because of the illness.
D. The first stage in reaction to a chronic illness, during which the person feels the illness will not prevent him or her from being better than ever.
E. The stage of a chronic illness during which the person integrates aspects of the former self with current limitations imposed by the illness.
F. A story told by a patient to describe his or her illness experience.

Q: Why is it important as a health professional to understand the stages that people go through when adapting to identity-changing illnesses?