

# “It’s as if I haven’t lived at all.”

(A Tri-C Common Reading Program Assignment)

Total Points Possible: \_\_\_\_\_

Due: \_\_\_\_\_

## Required Reading:

*The Postmortal*, pages 73 - 134

## Assignment:

**Step 1:** Re-read pages 75 - 76 of *The Postmortal* – the chapter entitled “Photo No. 3,653.”

After examining photographs of himself, John Farrell makes the following observation: “The supposed character that aging features provide has not been bestowed upon me. You wouldn’t know that I’ve lived ten years between the first photo and the last. All 3,650 pictures could – if not for my hair – have been taken on the same day. The time span is invisible. It’s as if I haven’t lived at all” (75).

**Step 2:** Create a linear sequence of four different photographs of yourself. The span between each pic should be at least six (6) months. (Include the photographs with this journal entry.)

**Step 3:** Examine yourself closely in each photograph.

**Step 4:** Write a short paragraph (approximately 250 words) in which you answer these three questions:

- What does your exterior aging process capture about your life at its four different junctures?
- Do you believe such physical indicators of aging reflect a sense of character, as Farrell suggests? In other words, does our corporeal body reflect something of our inner life?
- If it were available and legal, would **you** get the cure?