It's Only Hair

Bounthavy Chaleunphone

I used to have nice long hair, thick and beautiful. I loved my dark brown, almost black hair.

I thought that I would have that hair forever. In 2009, I discovered that I had breast cancer. After I went through treatment, I started to lose my hair, bit by bit.

I consulted with my doctor, she advised me to use certain shampoos and to take vitamins to fight hair loss. Up until now, nothing has worked on my hair. I have tried all kinds of products; some of them were kind of expensive.

I am so frustrated with my hair. Every time I look at myself in the mirror, I can see my scalp and my hair is so thin. I feel sad about my hair, but I am happy to be alive.

Bounthavy Chaleunphone was born in Laos. Today, she lives in Plainville, CT, with her husband and has three children. She is working toward obtaining her GED. Bounthavy enjoys traveling and gardening, and she is committed to meditation practices. She is a student at Plainville Adult and Continuing Education in Plainville, CT.



Compare and Contrast

Read the articles on pp. 22-23. Make a Venn Diagram to organize what is similar and what is different in the two stories.

In this circle, write what is different about Cynthia's story.

Where the circles overlap, write what the two stories have in common.

In this circle, write what is different about Bounthavy's story.

