

# Sara N. Dipety: Queen of Teachable Moments in the Clinic and Beyond

Joel I. Shenker, M.D., Ph.D.  
University of Missouri, Columbia  
joelshenker@aol.com

## Serendipity

- Use real phenomena
- Be open to the moment

## Typical classroom

- Social roles
- Predictable
- Controllable
- Problematic
  - Information overload
  - Feels abstract
  - Impose interest
  - Must ask for questions

## Serendipity – what/why

- Be open to what the moment teaches
- Real, not abstract
- Questions emerge
- Interest is organic

## Serendipity – how

- Frame, don't script
- Listen
- Ask probing questions
- Unpackage arguments
- Give real responsibility
- Narrate your thinking
- Repeat a small number of points
- Use a system