

Young Inventors: Jack Andraka

volume 2
issue 15



©2013 Ted Conference in Flickr. Some rights reserved http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0/



Jack Andraka is a 16 year old who is changing the world. How is he doing that? He's helping doctors identify, or diagnose, diseases. He recently

invented a way to test for cancer.

Jack understands that the human body is made up of billions of cells, or the units that create life. Our cells are constantly replacing cells that have died. This keeps our body healthy.

But sometimes cells reproduce when they shouldn't. This is one thing that cancer cells do: They multiply quickly and crowd out healthy cells. There are hundreds of types of cancer. Some are more common and more dangerous than others.

Jack became interested in how cancer is diagnosed after his family lost a close friend to the disease. He focused on pancreatic cancer, which is one of the deadliest types of cancer. One reason it's so deadly is that doctors can't identify it when it first appears. Another

reason is that tests to find the disease cost a lot of money. Jack's test fixes both of these problems. It can accurately identify cancer cells, and it costs only about three cents a test.

Jack thinks that his test could change how cancer and other diseases are found. Because it uses only a drop of blood and a special paper, testing could be done in any doctor's office. He hopes that his findings could also be used to detect other diseases early, when they are easiest to cure.

Jack's discovery has changed his life. He has won more than \$100,000 and has spoken at conferences. In addition, he has started his own company and is patenting his invention. Jack believes that his invention will be used in hospitals around the country within the next 10 years. He also hopes that people may live longer because their cancer is found early, when it's easiest to cure.



©2009 by Argonne National Laboratory in Flickr. Some rights reserved http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/



For more information about TextProject and *FYI for Kids*, visit textproject.org v.1.0 © 2014 TextProject, Inc. Some rights reserved (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/us/>).

Name _____

Young Inventor: Jack Andraka

Write all these words in the right places to complete this puzzle, which tells how one young person's invention is helping save lives. You can reread the article before you begin, but don't look back at it while you are working. After you've completed the puzzle, read it to someone.



appears	cents	disease	drop	hospitals
life	money	test	16	100,000

Many people think inventors have to be adults, but Jack Andraka was only _____ years old when he invented something important.

Cancer is a terrible _____ that kills many people every year. If cancer is diagnosed when it first _____, though, people can often be cured. Pancreatic cancer is a type of cancer that is deadly because there is not a good _____ to tell when people have it.

Tests for cancer often cost a lot of _____, but Jack invented a test that uses only one _____ of blood and only costs three _____.

Jack's discovery is changing the lives of many people and has changed his _____, too. His invention won more than _____ dollars in prize money! Jack hopes that his invention will soon be used in _____ all over the country and will save many lives.

Comprehension Response Activities FYI for Kids — Level 2



For more information about TextProject and FYI for Kids, visit textproject.org
v.1.0 © 2014 TextProject, Inc. Some rights reserved (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/us/>).
©2013 Ted Conference in Flickr. Some rights reserved <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0/>



