

hank green

"Phineas Gage"

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Oh, Phineas Gage was 25 years old in 1848.
And he liked his job, working at the railroad, but he had
another fate.
He was blasting rock when something distracted him.
And he forgot to put the tamping sand in.
He shoved the tamping rod into that little hole onto the
blasting powder.
And suddenly his entire left frontal lobe had been
turned into clam chowder.

Oh this is the story of Phineas Gage, who was stabbed
in the brain.
And once your frontal lobe has been destroyed, you
can never go home again.

A little while later Phineas Gage was sitting on his bed.
He told the doctor the tamping rod had shot straight
through his head.
But the doctor could not believe what Phineas said.
For if that were the case he surely would be dead.

But then Phineas had a coughing fit.
And a teacup full of brains fell out of his head.
And that was more than the doctor could explain.

Oh this is the story of Phineas Gage, who was stabbed
in the brain.
And once your frontal lobe has been destroyed, you
can never go home again.

Well the doctor told the family to prepare for Gage's
death.
'Cause the one you take before your head gets stabbed
is usually your last breath.
And Phineas spent the next few months in bed.
In and out of consciousness, with a swelling in his
head.
But mere months after the accident, he walked right
down his stairs, as if having lost a quarter of his brain
left him no worse for wear.

Oh this is the story of Phineas Gage, who was stabbed
in the brain.

And once your frontal lobe has been destroyed, you
can never go home again.

But unfortunately for Phineas, our story won't end
there.

The reason we still know his name is the strangest part
of this affair.

After his brain was scrambled his friends and family
said,

"Oh, this is no longer Phineas. There's a new man here
instead."

And thus we know that operating on the brain needn't
not cause death.

And that what makes a person who he is, is not the
heart but the head.

Oh this is the story of Phineas Gage, who was stabbed
in the brain.

And once your frontal lobe has been destroyed, you
can never go home again.

Oh Phineas Gage was 37 years old when he finally
made his way.

Back to his home and family, for he could tell the day
of his death was fin'ly creeping up on him.

'Cause he forgot to put the tamping sand in.

And as common in these cases, of severe head
trauma, seizures took their toll and put an end to this
drama.

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