

# The Hospital



## Some Words We Need Before We Read....

- **numb** – not being able to feel due to cold or other reason
- **refugees** – people fleeing or escaping a bad situation
- **promptly** – quickly, without waiting
- **extended** – made longer, outstretched
- **horrendous** – very bad, horrible, causing horror
- **admired** – well liked, looked at with pleasure or a high opinion
- **encouragement** – give hope, courage or support to
- **frantically** – wildly excited with panic

Mr. and Mrs. Davis sat around the welcome fire, warming their numb hands and feet at the Colorado ski resort. It was winter break at the university. He and his wife decided that, even though it cost a lot, they needed a break. Mr. Davis had recently experienced something that he neither expected nor really believed. But it was real. It had to be. His friend, another highly educated and logical man, had also seen it.

The door opened as a few more refugees of the frozen slopes entered. They brought with them freshly fallen snowflakes on their jackets, gloves, scarves, boots, and hoods. Both Mr. and Mrs. Davis looked up, then made room for the new arrivals on the couch. The couple was a bit younger than the Davises were. They were probably in their 40s, whereas the Davises both were 55. The new arrivals promptly introduced themselves.

“Hi there, ya’all. I’m Ricky, and this is my lovely wife Belinda. We’re from Texas. Where are ya’ll from?” The Texan extended his hand and shook hands with Mr. and Mrs. Davis.

“Pleased to meet you. I’m Dorothy Davis, and this is my husband John. We’re from Pennsylvania, Gettysburg, actually,” Mrs. Davis answered.

“You don’t say. I didn’t know there was a town in Gettysburg. That’s where they had that battle during the Civil War and all those people died, right?” asked Belinda.

“Yes and yes,” Mrs. Davis instructed. There was a town before the famous battle and of course there’s one now. It even has a college, where John, my husband works.”

Not wanting to sound ignorant, Ricky quickly and knowledgeably added, “They say that the battle at Gettysburg was three days of the bloodiest fighting of the whole Civil War, consisting mostly of hand-to-hand combat. Both the Union and the Confederate soldiers suffered many losses. Around fifty thousand Americans, both Southern and Northern, killed each other there. Can you imagine that? American killing American, brother against brother! Horrendous!”

Ricky’s wife, Belinda, looked at her husband with surprise and respect. She didn’t know that he knew so much history.

“Wow, Honey. Is there anything else you want to tell us?” she asked, partly joking but curious anyway.

“Sure,” he added. “I know that the battle started in July 1863, exactly one hundred years after I was born. I remember how excited I was when my high school history teacher mentioned the year in class.”

Belinda was deep in thought. She waited a moment after her husband had finished, then thoughtfully said, “You said about 50,000 people died? Wouldn’t you think that after that many people died there’d be a ghost or two around there? Say, John, have you seen any ghosts over there in Gettysburg?” She halfway laughed, but by the way she was looking at Mr. Davis, he knew that she really wanted to know.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis looked at each other in an odd sort of way. Belinda could tell that he didn’t know if or how to answer her question. He didn’t voluntarily like to share his frightful experience of a few weeks ago. He was a highly respected professor and very admired by everybody at the college for his intelligence and level headedness. But he still felt that people were laughing at him after he had told a few of the other professors and secretaries of his experience.

Belinda and Ricky got excited by John Davis’s silence. They could tell that he knew something, and that “something” was really good.

“Oh, come on, tell us! Please. I know you’ve seen something. A ghost? Two ghosts? Please tell us. We love true ghost stories.”

“Well, I don’t know. It’s crazy. ....(buy book to read more of the story.....)

**A. Comprehension** – Answer the questions below.

1. Where did the Davises go during their winter break? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why did they feel they needed a break? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where were the Davises from? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Where was the other couple from? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What happened in Gettysburg many years ago? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who were the two sides fighting during the Civil War? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Why was this battle so well-known? \_\_\_\_\_
8. When exactly did the battle take place? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What did Professor Davis see one day? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Did anyone else see it besides him? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Vocabulary** – Write the word that is the opposite from the words on the left.

- |                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| _____ 1. horrendous       | a. discouragement   |
| _____ 2. admired          | b. hated            |
| _____ 3. encouragement    | c. absentmindedness |
| _____ 4. frantically      | d. calmly           |
| _____ 5. level headedness | e. very pleasant    |

**C. Language Connection** – In the sentences below, the italicized words are used either as verbs or nouns. Indicate which by writing (N) for noun or (V) for verb.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Let's take a *break* from working and drink some cool water.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Those two brothers always *battle* each other over every little thing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Do you think it might *snow* tonight?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The curious child always *questions* everything her parents tell her.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. You really have to *experience* sleeping on this bed; it's so comfortable!
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The nurses are used to hearing *moans* from their patients.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Did you hear that awful *scream*?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Before I take out the thorn from your finger, I need to *numb* it so you don't feel anything.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Be sure you *welcome* your guests when they enter your house.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. What is the *cost* of this round-trip ticket to New York?

**D. History Connection** – Read more about the American Civil War (also called the War Between the States). Then write (N) if the words or phrase refers to the North and (S) if the word or statement refers to the South.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Many plantations
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Mostly small farms
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Industry, factories
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Many people owned slaves
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Cotton main crop
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Wanted stronger state's rights
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Robert E. Lee was the General
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Ulysses S. Grant was the General
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Was called the Union
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Were called the Confederates or the Rebels

**E. Science (Medical) Connection** – Below are some medical words. Match the words with their correct definitions.

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| _____ 1. amputation | a. a light that cuts                    |
| _____ 2. suture     | b. a doctor who performs operations     |
| _____ 3. stitches   | c. a special thread for sewing up a cut |
| _____ 4. surgeon    | d. a liquid used to kills germs         |
| _____ 5. scalpel    | e. a liquid or gas used to numb an area |
| _____ 6. antiseptic | f. cutting off a body part              |
| _____ 7. laser      | g. a very sharp knife-like instrument   |
| _____ 8. anesthesia | h. sewing up a large or long cut        |

**F. Discussion Fun/Writing Practice** – After discussing some or all of the topics below, choose one of them and write a paragraph or more about it.

- Could the Southerners have had large plantations without having slaves?
- Is there any situation in which slavery is acceptable?
- Could the slaves have been freed without having a war?
- In what cases would amputation be necessary?
- What can be done these days in modern countries for people who have had an arm or a leg amputated?