

Name: _____

Remembering the Fallen

by Kelly Hashway

John walked through the park with his mom. It was their favorite way to spend a Saturday morning. They'd feed the birds and have a picnic brunch. But today, their usual picnic spot was already taken. They continued walking, looking for a good place to eat. John's stomach rumbled as he approached a statue of a man kneeling in front of a pair of boots, a rifle, and a helmet. "What is this a statue of?"

"It's a memorial for a fallen soldier." Mom's eyes glistened with tears as she stared at the statue. "When I was a little girl, Grandma and Grandpa used to take me here every Memorial Day. The whole town would get together and remember those who'd been lost."

"That sounds really sad," John said.

"Actually, it made people feel better. Sometimes talking about a loss helps us heal. And remembering those who died for us is a great way to honor them."

"Like with this statue?"

Mom nodded.



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"Did you used to attend the memorials, too?" Mom asked.

The woman nodded. "I ran them. That woman you were just talking about is me."

"Why did you stop the memorial services if they were helping so many people?" John asked.

"I got very sick for a while. I'd hoped someone else would take over the services, but instead the tradition was forgotten." She lowered her head.

"Are you better now?" John asked.

"Yes, but I'm afraid I'm much too old to organize a memorial. I wish I could, though. My Edward deserves to be remembered."

John sat down on the bench next to the woman. "Who's Edward?"

Tears filled the old woman's eyes. "My husband. He died in battle, just months after we were married."

"I'm so sorry," Mom said.

"So he was a fallen soldier," John said. The old woman nodded, unable to speak. John put his hand on hers. "Could you tell me how to run the memorial service? I'd like to do it this year."

The old woman smiled. "You remind me of my Edward. He had the same gray eyes and curly brown hair."

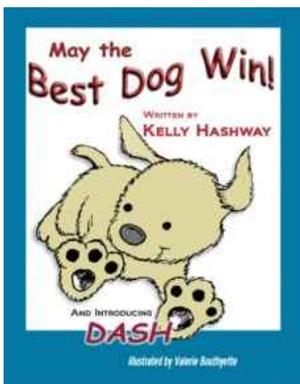
Hearing that, John wanted to help more than ever. "Can we do it, Mom? Can we run the :



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Kelly Hashway's latest book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available!

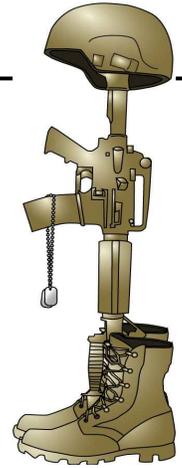
Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

Hashway, Kelly. *May the Best Dog Win*. ISBN: 9780984589081

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1. What is the setting of this story?
 - a. on a Sunday evening in the park
 - b. on a Sunday afternoon in the park
 - c. on a Saturday afternoon in the park
 - d. on a Saturday morning in a cemetery
2. While they were walking through the park, John and his mother saw a memorial statue to honor fallen soldiers. Describe what the statue looked like.

3.



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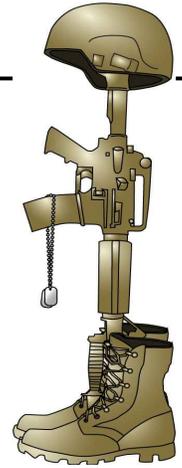
4.
 - a. She thought nobody cared about fallen soldiers.
 - b. She was disappointed that more people didn't come.
 - c. She became sick and couldn't do it any longer.
 - d. She wanted to spend more time with her family.

5. Who was Edward? When did he die?

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Match each vocabulary word from the story to the correct definition.

_____ 1. statue

a. plans to do things at specific times

_____ 2. brunch

b. walking stick

_____ 3. lost

c. meal that is a combination of



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etal

_____ 6. kneeling

f. to go down and rest on one or both knees

_____ 7. rifle

g. ceremony for remembering people who have died

_____ 8. cane

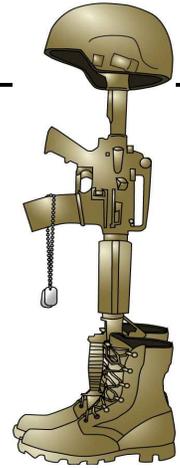
h. worthy of

◆ **Now try this:** Write three sentences on your own. In each sentence, use one of the vocabulary words above.

ANSWER KEY

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1. What is the setting of this story?
 - a. on a Sunday evening in the park
 - b. on a Sunday afternoon in the park
 - c. **on a Saturday afternoon in the park**
 - d. on a Saturday morning in a cemetery
2. While they were walking through the park, John and his mother saw a memorial statue to honor fallen soldiers. Describe what the statue looked like.

It was a statue of a soldier kneeling in front of a pair of boots, a rifle, and helmet.

3.



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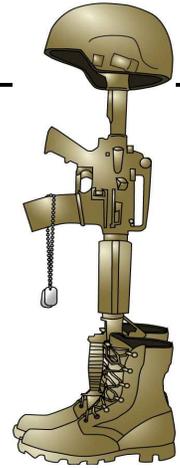
4. Why did Mrs. McElroy stop organizing the yearly Memorial Day service in the park?
 - a. She thought nobody cared about fallen soldiers.
 - b. She was disappointed that more people didn't come.
 - c. **She became sick and couldn't do it any longer.**
 - d. She wanted to spend more time with her family.
5. Who was Edward? When did he die?

Edward was Mrs. McElroy's husband. He dies in battle just a few months after they were married.

ANSWER KEY

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Match each vocabulary word from the story to the correct definition.

e 1. statue

a. killed during a war

c 2. brunch

b. walking stick

a 3. lost

c. meal that is a combination of breakfast and lunch

g 4. memorial service

d. type of gun that shoots a

h



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etal

f

e or

d 7. rifle

g. ceremony for remembering people who have died

b 8. cane

h. worthy of

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