

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.

"Then, why don't people get together here anymore?" John asked.

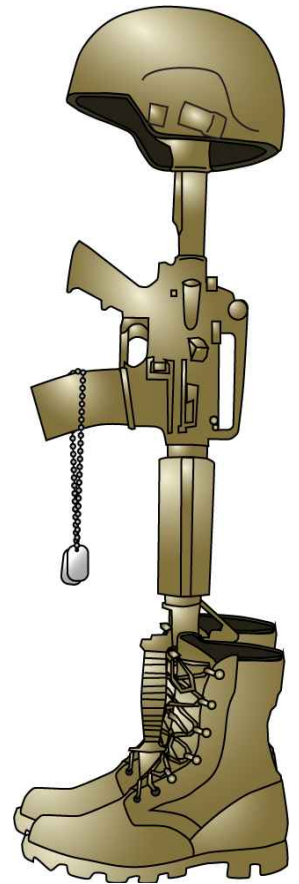
"I don't know. A woman used to lead us in prayer. Then one year, no one got together. I don't know why."

"I know," came a shaky voice from a nearby bench. John looked at the old woman. She held a cane and wore glasses on a string around her neck.

"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."

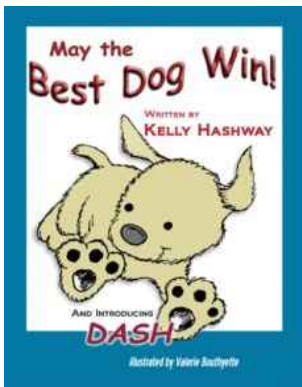
Hearing that, John wanted to help more than ever. "Can we do it, Mom? Can we run the service for Mrs.—"

"McElroy," the old woman said.

Mom nodded. "I think it's a great idea."

John squeezed Mrs. McElroy's hand. "I'd love to hear more about Edward."

## About the Author



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

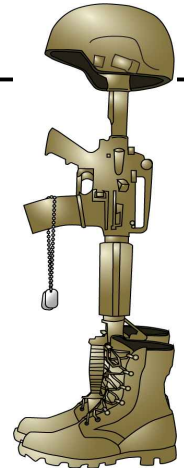
Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

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 morning 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.  

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3. Who used to bring John's mother to the Memorial Day service in the park?
  - a. her parents
  - b. her grandparents
  - c. her aunts and uncles
  - d. her cousins
  
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?

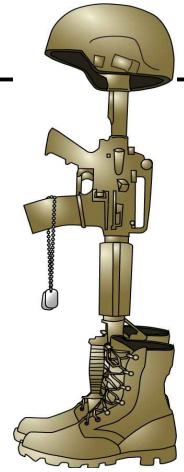
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Match each vocabulary word from the story to the correct definition.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. statue

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. brunch

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. lost

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. memorial service

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. deserves

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. kneeling

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. rifle

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. cane

a. killed during a war

b. walking stick

c. meal that is a combination of  
breakfast and lunch

d. type of gun that shoots a  
spinning bullet

e. large model of a person or  
object made of stone or metal

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

g. ceremony for remembering  
people who have died

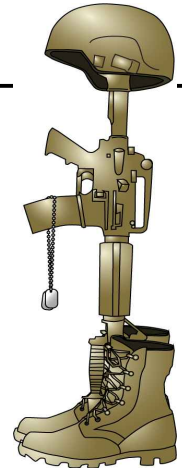
h. worthy of

◆ **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?
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  - c. **on a Saturday morning in the park**
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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. Who used to bring John's mother to the Memorial Day service in the park?
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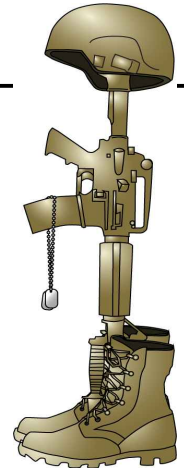
5. Who was Edward? When did he die?

**Edward was Mrs. McElroy's husband. He died 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.

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>e</b> 1. statue           | <b>a.</b> killed during a war                                      |
| <b>c</b> 2. brunch           | <b>b.</b> walking stick  |
| <b>a</b> 3. lost             | <b>c.</b> meal that is a combination of breakfast and lunch        |
| <b>g</b> 4. memorial service | <b>d.</b> type of gun that shoots a spinning bullet                |
| <b>h</b> 5. deserves         | <b>e.</b> large model of a person or object made of stone or metal |
| <b>f</b> 6. kneeling         | <b>f.</b> to go down and rest on one or both knees                 |
| <b>d</b> 7. rifle            | <b>g.</b> ceremony for remembering people who have died            |
| <b>b</b> 8. cane             | <b>h.</b> worthy of  |

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