

Letters of a Civil War Nurse

Cornelia Hancock

What changes when Hancock reports war through the work of caring for bodies rather than battlefield glory?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	Gettysburg correspondence - witnessing aftermath and care

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	We have been two days on the field; go out about eight and come in about six
END	in fact, the air is rent with petitions to deliver them from their sufferings.
PASSAGE ID	sec-hancock-gettysburg-01

THE MOVE

Analyze how a firsthand writer uses concrete observation to challenge an abstract public story.

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Hancock writes from inside hospitals and improvised care. Her details shift attention from victory and strategy to exhaustion, wounds, labor, and responsibility.

MARK

Underline concrete physical details. Circle moments where Hancock judges what she sees. Box the detail that most sharply changes the meaning of “war.”

NOTICE

- Which details could only come from an eyewitness?
- Where does observation become judgment?
- How does nursing change the scale of the story?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What changes when Hancock reports war through the work of caring for bodies rather than battlefield glory? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

STRONG ANSWER

Hancock makes war immediate by measuring it in bodies, rooms, supplies, and care. The firsthand detail resists heroic distance and makes the human cost impossible to treat as an abstraction.

EVIDENCE

Use one physical detail and one moment of judgment.

WATCH FOR

Do not summarize Civil War history. Explain how eyewitness detail changes the reader's frame.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 8 · LESSON 339

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WORK	Letters of a Civil War Nurse
TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	Gettysburg correspondence - witnessing aftermath and care

Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

We have been two days on the field; go out about eight and come in about six

END

in fact, the air is rent with petitions to deliver them from their sufferings.

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** Underline concrete physical details. Circle moments where Hancock judges what she sees. Box the detail that most sharply changes the meaning of “war.”
2. **NOTICE** Which details could only come from an eyewitness? Where does observation become judgment? How does nursing change the scale of the story?
3. **THINK** Answer provisionally: What changes when Hancock reports war through the work of caring for bodies rather than battlefield glory?
4. **WRITE** Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. **CLOSE** Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.