

FOUNDER OF THE *American Red Cross*

by William B. L. Phillips



- 1 Clara Barton was born in 1821. Her father was a good storyteller. He had an active mind. Clara loved to listen to the tales he told. She thought about her father's stories when she was supposed to be asleep.
- 2 Clara lived with her father, mother, and siblings. They had a farm near Boston. She often played with her brothers and sisters. Her brother David taught her how to ride horses. Clara and David rode horses together.
- 3 Clara loved to read and learn. At the age of fifteen, she became a teacher. She taught students in grade schools. Her students thought Clara was a good teacher. They forgot she was almost their age too!
- 4 Later, Clara went away to college. While she was away her mother died. Soon after, Clara moved to Washington, D.C. She was the first woman to work in the U.S. patent office.
- 5 When the American Civil War began, Clara wanted to help. She asked people for supplies. Then she helped soldiers who were hurt. She was a good nurse.

- 6 It seemed like Clara Barton never felt tired. She was always ready to help. One soldier saw Clara coming toward him. He thought she looked like an angel. The newspapers gave Clara a nickname. They called her "The Angel of the Battlefield."
- 7 Being a war nurse was a dangerous job. Clara was almost shot several times. She knew her work was important. When soldiers were hurt or scared, she held their hands. When they were hungry, she fixed them food. She also brought heavy buckets of water to them.
- 8 One time Clara was helping an injured soldier. She felt a breeze on her arm. She looked down and saw a hole. A bullet had passed through her shirt! She had been so busy she hadn't noticed.
- 9 Still, Clara Barton didn't give up. She worked from dawn until dark. She comforted the soldiers. She helped the doctors with their work.
- 10 The war ended in 1865. Clara got letters from many people. They asked her to help them. They wanted to find lost soldiers. Clara Barton helped find many missing people.
- 11 Long after the war had ended, Clara gave speeches about helping others during war. She told people how important it was to help others. Clara had begun her hardest work. She wanted to keep helping people. She wanted to do more than help soldiers during war.
- 12 Clara continued her hard work. She shared her ideas. People listened. The American Red Cross was formed in 1881. Clara Barton was its leader.
- 13 Clara Barton died in 1912. Her hard work paid off. The American Red Cross still helps people.

COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a*, *b*, or *c*.

- 1 In this story you learn that Clara
 - a liked to help others.
 - b felt too tired to help others.
 - c needed food and water.
- 2 You know Clara cared about the soldiers because
 - a she was a teacher.
 - b she risked her life to help them.
 - c she moved to Washington, D.C.
- 3 You can tell that Clara was a
 - a funny person.
 - b caring person.
 - c selfish person.

- 4 The American Red Cross is
 - a a group that helps many people.
 - b a place to go to give a speech.
 - c where Clara went because she wanted to be a nurse.
- 5 Clara was like her father because
 - a her speeches, like her father's stories, made people think.
 - b they both enjoyed reading.
 - c neither one went to college.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues about the word's meaning.

Which word in the story best fits each meaning below? (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1 someone who tells stories (1)
- 2 frequently (2)
- 3 a name used instead of a person's real name (6)
- 4 unsafe (7)
- 5 in need of food to cure hunger (7)
- 6 early morning (9)
- 7 talks; presentations (11)
- 8 a person who shows the way (12)

C *too* = also

two = the number after one

A word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning will depend on how it is used. Say *too* and *two*. They are homophones. **Homophones** are words that sound the same but usually aren't spelled the same and usually don't mean the same thing.

Look at each word in **bold type** below. Note the paragraph number. Look at the paragraph and find its homophone partner. Write the word.

9 tails (1)

Clara's father told good _____.

10 whole (8)

Clara had a _____ in her shirt.

THINK ABOUT IT

D A **fact** is something that is true. An **opinion** is what someone thinks.

Fact: Clara formed the Red Cross.

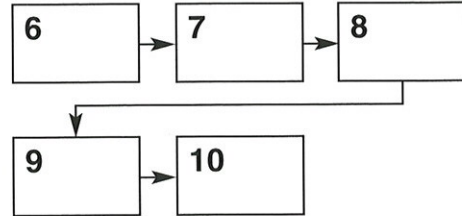
Opinion: I think Clara was nice.

Read each sentence. Is it a fact or an opinion? Write *F* if it is a fact.

Write *O* if it is an opinion.

- 1 Clara helped soldiers.
- 2 I think Clara should have kept teaching.
- 3 Clara was the leader of the American Red Cross.
- 4 Before Clara was a nurse, she was a teacher.
- 5 I think Clara was a brave person.

E Look at the story map below. Then read the sentences. Complete each box by writing the letter that tells in which order each event happened.



- a Clara noticed a hole in her shirt.
- b The American Red Cross was formed.
- c Clara listened to her father's tales.
- d The American Civil War began.
- e Clara gave speeches about the war.

SAMPLE

Comprehension

- A**
- 1 a
 - 2 b
 - 3 b
 - 4 a
 - 5 a

Learn about Words

- B**
- 1 storyteller
 - 2 often
 - 3 nickname
 - 4 dangerous
 - 5 hungry
 - 6 dawn
 - 7 speeches
 - 8 leader
- C**
- 9 tales
 - 10 hole

Think about It

- D**
- 1 F
 - 2 O
 - 3 F
 - 4 F
 - 5 O
- E**
- 6 c
 - 7 d
 - 8 a
 - 9 e
 - 10 b