

Name: _____

Heroes in the Sky

by Kelly Hashway

Jason picked up a model helicopter on his grandfather's desk. "This is cool," he said, spinning the blade on top.



His grandfather walked over and took the helicopter in his hand. He looked at it for a moment without saying a word. "It's a Huey. I flew one just like it in Vietnam."

"You mean the Vietnam War, Grandpa Bill?" Jason asked. He knew his grandfather had fought in the war, but he never liked to talk about it.

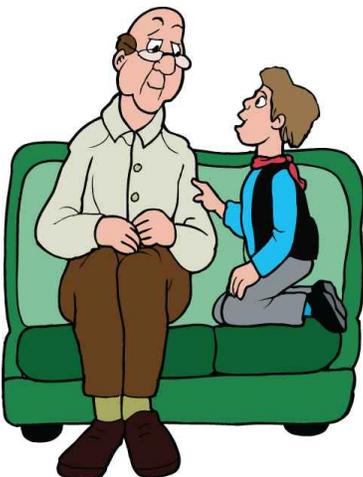
Grandpa Bill nodded. "The Huey was equipped with rockets and machine guns. Some of them even had grenade launchers."

Jason's first instinct was to say that was cool. A helicopter with all those weapons would be amazing. But then he realized Grandpa Bill was a war veteran. The reason why he didn't like

to talk about the war was because it had been frightening. "Were you scared?" Jason asked, looking into Grandpa Bill's eyes.

"Of course. But I had a very important job in the Huey. I had to escort troops for the Army and Marines. The Huey became a symbol of the U.S. forces in Vietnam," Grandpa Bill said, his voice quiet.

"Did you help wounded soldiers, too?" Jason asked. He



remembered his history teacher saying something about the helicopters airlifting casualties to medical facilities.

Grandpa Bill nodded again, but then he smiled. Jason had never seen him look so proud. "Vietnam was the first real helicopter war. By the end of the war, the Army had an Air Force of its own."

"Thanks to the Huey and brave people like you who flew them," Jason said. "You helped change history, Grandpa. You're a real hero."

Grandpa Bill smiled. "I wouldn't call myself a hero. I did what so many others did at that time."

Jason reached for the model Huey. "I'd really like it if you'd tell me more about your time in Vietnam. And not just about the helicopters or the places you've been to. I want to know what it was like to fight for your country, to risk your life to save others. I want to know what it feels like to be a hero."

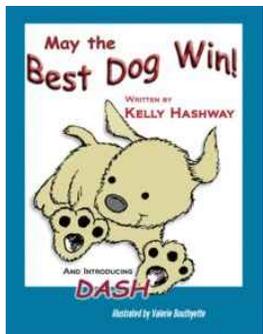
Grandpa Bill shook his head. "There you go, using that word again."

"Because you are a hero, Grandpa."

Grandpa Bill wiped a tear from his eye and began telling Jason about his time in Vietnam.

About the the Author

Kelly Hashway



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.

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1. What did Grandpa Bill do in the Vietnam War?
 - a. He was a helicopter pilot.
 - b. He fixed helicopters.
 - c. He gave medicine to wounded soldiers.
 - d. He made maps of Vietnam.

2. Why didn't Jason's grandfather like to talk about the Vietnam War?

3. How did Grandpa Bill feel when he talked about his experiences during the war?
 - a. confused
 - b. excited
 - c. proud
 - d. annoyed

4. Jason believed Grandpa Bill was a hero because...
 - a. He killed many people.
 - b. He could operate a machine gun.
 - c. He took risks to save and protect other people.
 - d. He knew a lot about helicopters.

5. What did Grandpa Bill mean when he said, "By the end of the war, the Army had an Air Force of their own?"
 - a. The Army had beaten the air force.
 - b. The Army had many helicopters.
 - c. The Air Force gave equipment to the army.
 - d. The Air Force and the Army worked together.

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Fill in the missing letters to create a word from the story.

Then, write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. ___ ___ l i ___ o ___ t ___ r

hint: aircraft with a large spinning blade on top

1. _____

2. ___ i e t ___ a m

hint: country in Southeast Asia

2. _____

3. ___ ___ u n ___ e d

hint: injured; hurt

3. _____

4. v ___ t e ___ a ___

hint: person who served in the military

4. _____

5. ___ ___ a p ___ n s

hint: things that are used to harm other people, such as guns

5. _____

6. ___ e r ___

hint: person who is honored for being brave for doing something outstanding

6. _____

ANSWER KEY

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1. What did Grandpa Bill do in the Vietnam War? **a**
 - a. **He was a helicopter pilot.**
 - b. He fixed helicopters.
 - c. He gave medicine to wounded soldiers.
 - d. He made maps of Vietnam.

2. Why didn't Jason's grandfather like to talk about the Vietnam War?
It was a frightening experience for him.

3. How did Grandpa Bill feel when he talked about his experiences during the war? **c**
 - a. confused
 - b. excited
 - c. **proud**
 - d. annoyed

4. Jason believed Grandpa Bill was a hero because... **c**
 - a. He killed many people.
 - b. He could operate a machine gun.
 - c. **He took risks to save and protect other people.**
 - d. He knew a lot about helicopters.

5. What did Grandpa Bill mean when he said, "By the end of the war, the Army had an Air Force of their own?" **b**
 - a. The Army had beaten the air force.
 - b. **The Army had many helicopters.**
 - c. The Air Force gave equipment to the army.
 - d. The Air Force and the Army worked together.

ANSWER KEY

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4. veteran

5. w e a p o n s

hint: things that are used to harm other people, such as guns

5. weapons

6. h e r o

hint: person who is honored for being brave for doing something outstanding

6. hero