

This sample developmental edit appears with the gracious permission of the author and is copyrighted by him. Any other use is forbidden.

## Jonah and the Snipers

Riding toward the battle line a Union Major shouted, "Onward men, onward, give 'em hell. Carry your flag proud." Stopping on a small hill he removed his binoculars from their case and looked into the heavy smoke. Suddenly he hollered, "Damn it I'm hit." He did not fall from his horse and managed to turn and ride back to the wood line.

Lieutenant Jonah Miller was in the wood line as he rode in. Trying to shout above the noise of battle, Miller screamed, "Sir, sir." The Major continued to ride. Lieutenant Miller rode after him. Forty or fifty yards into the woods, he found the Major on the ground next to his horse that was waiting patiently beside him. Lieutenant Miller got down on his knees and tried to determine the extent of the Major's injury. He was lucky; it was a clean shot that had passed through his shoulder.

"You will be okay sir; it's only a flesh wound."

"Get me back on my horse Lieutenant. There is a battle to be won."

"No sir, I must get you to the hospital tent or you will bleed to death. I will try to stop the bleeding". Jonah was tying a bandage around his arm when First Sergeant Shaw came walking by. "Is it bad sir?"

"No Sergeant, but we must get the bleeding stopped and get him to the rear."

"Ok sir." After finishing the bandaging, they put the Major on his horse. The Sergeant led him away towards the hospital area located about 1000 yards away.

**Comment [MDH1]:** Consider putting this in your header, if it's allowed, so you don't have to worry about it moving when the page breaks. You can put the title on one side and the page number where you have it. To access header and footer, it's view ->headers and footers.

You also need to create a title page with your name. You may want to add your name in your header as well.

**Comment [MDH2]:** GREAT opening paragraph!

**Comment [MDH3]:** Consider adding an action here to go with his dialog and illustrate his surprise. For example, perhaps: "Suddenly, he looked down and hollered ..." would show rather than tell the reader about his predicament.

Overall, the dialog is good, but adding these details also helps the reader visualize the scene.

**Comment [MDH4]:** Clarify who the "he" is (the major).

**Comment [MDH5]:** It is important to refer to the main character consistently. It's okay for his fellow army men to refer to him as Lt. Miller or Lt., but the narrator should use "Jonah."

**Comment [MDH6]:** Here again, the narrator should use "Jonah".

**Comment [MDH7]:** In most instances, people speak in contractions. They also tend to move and do other things as they speak. Please consider revising dialog to contain contractions and movement so that it is more realistic.

**Comment [MDH8]:** Consider adding how he said this. Was he gasping for breath, downplaying his wounds? Or was he just matter-of-factly stating something because his wound wasn't serious?

**Comment [MDH9]:** Consider adding more detail here. For example, what was Jonah doing as he said this? Was he getting out his bandage materials, with his brow furrowed?

**Comment [MDH10]:** Consider clarifying this for your readers. Above, it says the wound was in the shoulder.