



Unit: Soldiers

Lesson 1.7: “Life Among Fifty Thousand Sick Soldiers”

Aim: To learn about the lives of the sick or wounded during the Civil War.

Objective: Students read and answer questions about an article from the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* describing life in a Union hospital. Students use their new understanding of soldiers’ lives (in battle, in prison, in hospital) to write an original letter.

Materials:

1. *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* article from March 19, 1863 on overhead
<http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/civilwar/cwdoc049.html>
2. Questions on board

Procedure:

1. Explain to students that today they will learn about what it was like to be a soldier in the hospital during the Civil War. Place *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* article on overhead.
2. Either as a class or in small groups, students answer the following questions: From what point of view is the article written? What does the writer do at the hospital? How does he help the patients? What does he bring them? List details about hospital life. Share.
3. Synthesis: Writing Assignment
Imagine you are a soldier, either at the front, in prison, or hospitalized. Write a letter home to your family describing your situation. Make it personal, yet informative. Don’t forget to ask some questions about home life.