

Name:

Day One

Homefront

Part 1: Silent read

➔ What is it like for the family when a soldier deploys to Iraq? Read silently.

When Nikki’s husband, Nick, deployed to Iraq, the family was left behind. Nikki stayed in Kansas. She lived at Fort Riley with their three children.

“I can’t count how many times I think about him during the day,” Nikki told *ABC News* in 2008. “We talk about him all the time.” While Nikki and her children ate breakfast each day, she thought about Nick. She tried to picture what he might be doing in Iraq. “Right now, usually he’s sleeping, unless they’re on guard,” she said.

After a midnight raid, Nick would often call. As the sky brightened in Iraq, darkness fell in Kansas. Three a.m. in Baghdad is 6 p.m. at Fort Riley.

In the past, soldiers wrote letters home. Families would wait for weeks to get news. It was frightening to be out of touch. Today, computers help soldiers stay connected. “The contact that technology has allowed us to have—that is so much peace for me,” Nikki said.

Nikki missed Nick most in the evenings. When he was at home, they helped each other. “Usually I make dinner and he spends time with the kids,” she said. “We both do prayer time, story time, and bed time.” While Nick was fighting in Iraq, she did these things alone. When Nick first left, this was hard. “Now I’m okay, I’m in my groove,” she said. “This is what Army spouses do.”

All military families are different. They cope in different ways. But they are all glad when moms, dads, and spouses are safely back at home.

Source: “Life without my husband,” *ABC News*, January 18, 2008.



Day One Homefront

// one minute

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

When Nikki’s husband, Nick, deployed to Iraq, the family was left behind. Nikki stayed in Kansas. She lived at Fort Riley with their three children.

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58
75
86

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102
114

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130
144
160
161

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177
194
211
229
233

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248
258

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What was it like for the family when Nick was in Iraq?

When it is 3 a.m. in Baghdad, what time is it at Fort Riley? _____

Day One

Homefront

Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

When Nikki’s husband, / Nick, / deployed to Iraq, / the family was left behind. // Nikki stayed in Kansas. // She lived at Fort Riley / with their three children. //

“I can’t count how many times / I think about him during the day,” / Nikki told *ABC News* in 2008. // “We talk about him all the time.” // While Nikki and her children ate breakfast each day, / she thought about Nick. // She tried to picture what he might be doing / in Iraq. // “Right now, / usually he’s sleeping, / unless they’re on guard,” / she said. //

After a midnight raid, / Nick would often call. // As the sky brightened in Iraq, / darkness fell in Kansas. // Three a.m. in Baghdad / is 6 p.m. at Fort Riley. //

In the past, / soldiers wrote letters home. // Families would wait for weeks / to get news. It was frightening to be out of touch. // Today, / computers help soldiers stay connected. // “The contact / that technology has allowed us to have— / that is so much peace for me,” / Nikki said. //

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All military families are different. // They cope in different ways. // But they are all glad when moms, / dads, / and spouses / are safely back at home. //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.