

Name:

## Day One

# Enlisting: One Soldier's Story

## Part 1: Silent read

→ Why do young people enlist during wartime? Read silently.

By 2006, the Iraq War was becoming unpopular. Three years after the invasion, we were still fighting. Things on the ground in Iraq were chaotic and unstable. Many people said we should never have gone to war.

In 2006, the U.S. Army set a goal of enlisting 80,000 new recruits. It looked like it might be hard to reach this goal. During an unpopular war, who would enlist? In fact, more than 80,000 people enlisted in 2006. Who were these American soldiers? Who enlisted during wartime?

Amanda Gillenger of Killeen, Texas was one of the new recruits. In September of 2006, she was an 18-year-old high school senior. While some high school students enlist without knowing much about the military, Amanda knew what to expect. Both of Amanda's parents served in the Army. "My mom's in Iraq right now," she told *NPR*.

For Amanda, enlisting was a way to help pay for college. "College is expensive nowadays, and I want to be a doctor," she said. Military benefits made the Army look like the right choice. She made plans to join after graduation.

Amanda said she knew that she might see combat in Iraq. Still, she thought the deal was fair. "One tour, a year in Iraq, is nothing compared to how much better my life will be if I get to be a doctor," she said. "The Army is giving me my future."

Source: "A new Army recruit's reasons for enlisting," *NPR*, August 17, 2010.



# Day One

// one minute

## Enlisting: One Soldier's Story

### Part 2: First timed read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

By 2006, the Iraq War was becoming unpopular. Three years after the invasion, we were still fighting. Things on the ground in Iraq were chaotic and unstable. Many people said we should never have gone to war.

In 2006, the U.S. Army set a goal of enlisting 80,000 new recruits. It looked like it might	55
be hard to reach this goal. During an unpopular war, who would enlist? In fact, more than	72
80,000 people enlisted in 2006. Who were these American soldiers? Who enlisted during	85
wartime?	86

Amanda Gillenger of Killeen, Texas was one of the new recruits. In September of 2006,	101
she was an 18-year-old high school senior. While some high school students enlist	116
without knowing much about the military, Amanda knew what to expect. Both of	129
Amanda's parents served in the Army. "My mom's in Iraq right now," she told <i>NPR</i> .	144

For Amanda, enlisting was a way to help pay for college. "College is expensive	158
nowadays, and I want to be a doctor," she said. Military benefits made the Army look	174
like the right choice. She made plans to join after graduation.	185

Amanda said she knew that she might see combat in Iraq. Still, she thought the deal was	202
fair. "One tour, a year in Iraq, is nothing compared to how much better my life will be if I	222
get to be a doctor," she said. "The Army is giving me my future."	236

### Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Why do you think it was hard to get people to enlist in 2006?

---

---

Why did Amanda join the army?

---

---

## Day One

# Enlisting: One Soldier's Story

### 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.

By 2006, / the Iraq War was becoming unpopular. // Three years after the invasion, / we were still fighting. // Things on the ground in Iraq / were chaotic and unstable. // Many people said we should never have gone to war. //

In 2006, / the U.S. Army set a goal of enlisting 80,000 new recruits. // It looked like it might be hard to reach this goal. // During an unpopular war, / who would enlist? // In fact, / more than 80,000 people enlisted in 2006. // Who were these American soldiers? // Who enlisted during wartime? //

Amanda Gillenger of Killeen, / Texas / was one of the new recruits. // In September of 2006, / she was an 18-year-old high school senior. // While some high school students enlist / without knowing much about the military, / Amanda knew what to expect. // Both of Amanda's parents served in the Army. // "My mom's in Iraq right now," / she told *NPR*. //

For Amanda, / enlisting was a way to help pay for college. // "College is expensive nowadays, / and I want to be a doctor," / she said. // Military benefits made the Army look like the right choice. // She made plans to join after graduation. //

Amanda said she knew / that she might see combat in Iraq. // Still, / she thought the deal was fair. // "One tour, / a year in Iraq, / is nothing compared to how much better my life will be / if I get to be a doctor," / she said. // "The Army is giving me my future." //

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