

Name:

Day One

Military Moms

Part 1: Silent read

➔ Should women who fight overseas lose their children? Read silently.

Kelly lives in Bull Shoals, Arkansas. She has two children, a son and a daughter. Although Kelly separated from her husband, she lived a happy life with her children, who visited their father every other week.

Kelly had to leave the U.S. to fight in the war in Afghanistan. While she was away defending her country, her children lived with their father full-time. Kelly wrote her children every day while she was in Afghanistan. They were always eager to get their mother's letters. Despite the fact that their mother was at war, the daily letters let the children know she was thinking about them all the time.

With her service time ending, Kelly felt excited to be reunited with her children. Just before she returned home, however, their father informed Kelly that he was going to court. Having a mother in Afghanistan created an unstable environment for the children, he claimed. He was seeking full custody, meaning the children would live with their father full-time. "If you get called away to fight again, our children will be devastated," the father said.

Kelly worked hard to regain custody of her children. "You have to sacrifice so much to serve your country," she argued. "If I had known I would be asked to sacrifice my children too, I would never have gone. I feel like my service was in vain."



Day One Military Moms

// one minute

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

Kelly lives in Bull Shoals, Arkansas. She has two children, a son and a daughter. Although Kelly separated from her husband, she lived a happy life with her children, who visited their father every other week.

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| Kelly had to leave the U.S. to fight in the war in Afghanistan. While she was away | 54 |
| defending her country, her children lived with their father full-time. Kelly wrote her | 68 |
| children every day while she was in Afghanistan. They were always eager to get their | 83 |
| mother’s letters. Despite the fact that their mother was at war, the daily letters let the | 99 |
| children know she was thinking about them all the time. | 109 |

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|---|-----|
| With her service time ending, Kelly felt excited to be reunited with her children. Just | 124 |
| before she returned home, however, their father informed Kelly that he was going to | 138 |
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| father full-time. “If you get called away to fight again, our children will be devastated,” | 181 |
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| Kelly worked hard to regain custody of her children. “You have to sacrifice so much to | 200 |
| serve your country,” she argued. “If I had known I would be asked to sacrifice my | 216 |
| children too, I would never have gone. I feel like my service was in vain.” | 231 |

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What worries many women soldiers who fight overseas?

What did the children’s father want?

Day One

Military Moms

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.

Kelly lives in Bull Shoals, / Arkansas. // She has two children, / a son and a daughter. // Although Kelly separated from her husband, / she lived a happy life with her children, / who visited their father every other week. //

Kelly had to leave the U.S. to fight in the war in Afghanistan. // While she was away defending her country, / her children lived with their father full-time. // Kelly wrote her children every day / while she was in Afghanistan. // They were always eager / to get their mother's letters. // Despite the fact that their mother was at war, / the daily letters let the children know / she was thinking about them all the time. //

With her service time ending, / Kelly felt excited to be reunited with her children. // Just before she returned home, / however, / their father informed Kelly / that he was going to court. // Having a mother in Afghanistan / created an unstable environment for the children, / he claimed. // He was seeking full custody, / meaning the children would live with their father full-time. // "If you get called away to fight again, / our children will be devastated," / the father said. //

Kelly worked hard to regain custody of her children. // "You have to sacrifice so much / to serve your country," / she argued. // "If I had known I would be asked to sacrifice my children too, / I would never have gone. // I feel like my service was in vain." //

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