

Name:

Day One

Eric Hall

Part 1: Silent read

→ What is PTSD? Read silently.

Eric Hall was a proud, tough Marine. He was out on a foot patrol in Iraq when an IED exploded, killing his friend and tearing through Eric's leg.

Eric was flown to the Naval Hospital in Maryland, where he went through one painful operation after another. When he returned home, his body and his mind were still hurting from the war. One day, he ran out of the house and never came back. His family searched for him day and night. A few months later, they found Eric's body.

Eric suffered from PTSD, or post-traumatic stress disorder. Almost a third of Iraq War veterans suffer from PTSD or depression. They feel frightened and confused. They have nightmares. They have flashbacks to explosions or firefights. They are thousands of miles from the war zone, but they cannot leave the war behind.

As more Iraq War veterans came home, there were more and more stories like Eric's. Veterans and their families began to lobby for better medical care. People in power took notice. A special meeting of the Black members of Congress was held in September 2009. Representative Charles Rangel said, "Thousands of our veterans are falling through the cracks."

As the Hall family searched for Eric, many people helped. Some were veterans who worked around the clock to find Eric, like he was a brother. Eric's family wished Eric had known these other veterans. For veterans with PTSD, getting the right kind of help and connecting to other people can mean a brighter future.

Sources: "Eric Hall—an American hero," *The Arms Forces*, March 26, 2012.

"Tracking a Marine lost at home," *The New York Times*, March 31, 2008.



Day One

Eric Hall

// one minute

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

Eric Hall was a proud, tough Marine. He was out on a foot patrol in Iraq when an IED exploded, killing his friend and tearing through Eric’s leg.

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What happened to Eric Hall?

What are some symptoms of PTSD?

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Eric Hall

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.

Eric Hall was a proud, / tough Marine. // He was out on a foot patrol in Iraq when an IED exploded, / killing his friend and tearing through Eric’s leg. //

Eric was flown to the Naval Hospital in Maryland, / where he went through one painful operation after another. // When he returned home, / his body and his mind were still hurting from the war. // One day, / he ran out of the house and never came back. // His family searched for him day and night. // A few months later, / they found Eric’s body. //

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