

Unit 1

It doesn't matter who my father was; it matters who I remember he was.

—Anne Sexton (1928–1974)

父亲是谁不重要，重要的是他给了我什么样的回忆。

——安妮·塞克斯顿

PASSAGE **A**

Preview

Read the title and the last paragraph first. Then go through the following list of ideas. Write a check (✓) in front of each one that could be part of this passage.

1. _____ the promise of the Bluebirds company
2. _____ the nests Dad made for bluebirds
3. _____ the bright future of the Bluebird car
4. _____ the significance of bluebirds for Dad's life
5. _____ Dad's efforts to protect bluebirds
6. _____ Dad's promise to protect bluebirds



Promise of Bluebirds¹

- 1 The Pennsylvania landscape was in severe wintry² garb³ as our car sped west along the highway. The season was wrong, but I couldn't get bluebirds out of my head.
- 2 Only three weeks before, at Christmas, Dad had given me a nesting box he'd made. He had a special feeling for the brilliant creatures, and each spring he eagerly awaited their return. Now I wondered, will he ever see one again?
- 3 It was a heart attack. Dad's third.
- 4 When I got to the hospital at 2 am, he was losing the fight. As the family hovered⁴ at his bedside, he drifted in and out of consciousness.
- 5 The next morning the cardiologist⁵ met us in the waiting room. "He's still fighting," the doctor said. "I've never seen such strength."

1. bluebird *n.* 蓝知更鸟
(北美小鸟,背部及头部有蓝色羽毛)
2. wintry *adj.* 寒冷的
3. garb *n.* 服装, 装束
4. hover *vi.* 守候在近旁
5. cardiologist *n.* 心脏病专家

- 6 A miner, Dad had not had an easy life. He and Mom raised six kids at a time when coal miners earned as little as 25 cents a ton, and he loaded nine tons a day. Even now, I'm sure we don't know most of the sacrifices they made for us.
- 7 Each evening he came home, eager to take up his saw or hammer. Dad could fix a piece of wood on his lathe⁶ and turn out a beautiful salad bowl for Mom. He could also build a desk with fine drawers very easily.
- 8 Dad bought our plain, two-story house from the coal company and immediately began to remodel⁷ it. Our house was the first on the hill to have an indoor bathroom and hot water. He spent one summer digging out the clay⁸-filled foundation to install⁹ a coal furnace. We children no longer shivered in our bedrooms on cold winter mornings.
- 9 We loved to watch him work. When Dad needed something, we ran to get it.
- 10 Dad carried a spirit of craftsmanship¹⁰ into every job and expected the same from all six children. Each job had its claim on your best efforts. And every tool had its name. Those were his principles, and we lived by them just as Dad did.
- 11 Sitting in the hospital waiting room, I thought back to an afternoon in Dad's workshop¹¹ several years ago. He was retired by then, but he kept busy building beautiful furniture, now for his children's homes. A volunteer naturalist, I was eager to tell him about the help bluebirds needed.
- 12 When the early settlers had cleared forests for farmland, I explained, bluebirds flourished¹², nesting in fence-posts and orchard¹³ trees. But their habitat¹⁴ was disappearing, and now the birds needed nesting boxes.
- 13 Dad listened as I spoke, his hands gently moving a fine-grained sandpaper over a piece of oak. I asked him if he would like to build a box. He said he would think about it.
- 14 Several weeks later he invited me into his workshop. There, on his workbench, sat three well-crafted bluebird nesting boxes. "Think the birds will like them?" he asked.

6. lathe *n.* 车床

7. remodel *vt.* 改造

8. clay *n.* 粘土, 泥土

9. install *vt.* 安装

10. craftsmanship *n.* 精雕细刻的工匠作风

11. workshop *n.* 作坊

12. flourish *vi.* 繁荣

13. orchard *n.* 果园, 果树

14. habitat *n.* (动植物) 栖息地

- 15 “As much as I do,” I replied, hugging him. Dad put up the boxes, and the next spring bluebirds nested in his yard. He was hooked.
- 16 Dad became quite an expert on bluebirds. Bluebirds, he would say, are signs of hope and triumph, known for family loyalty. A pair will have two or three broods a year, the earlier young sometimes helping to feed the later nestlings¹⁵.
- 17 The presence of his children must have boosted¹⁶ Dad’s spirits after his attack because he grew stronger and left the hospital on Valentine’s Day. When I visited my parents at the end of March, Dad was confined downstairs. But I noticed that he paused longer and longer at the windows facing the backyard. I knew what he was hoping to see. And one day a bright flash of color circled the nesting box closest to our house.
- 18 “Well, it’s about time the birds showed, don’t you think?” Dad said.
- 19 Sporting a resplendent¹⁷ blue head, back, wings and tail, a male bluebird sang his courtship¹⁸ song so passionately¹⁹ that we named him “Caruso” after the Italian singer. A female appeared, but rejected the nesting box. Caruso found another in the field below the yard. He circled the new box, singing feverishly²⁰. She remained aloof²¹ on a distant perch²².
- 20 Dad was walking more and more each day as the love story unfolded²³. I could see strength coming back into his thin body.
- 21 Suddenly one morning, the female bird flew back to the box nearest the house and inspected it thoroughly. Caruso hovered nearby and sang delightfully as she finally accepted him.
- 22 Shortly after that, she proceeded to lay one egg a day until there were six. Caruso fluttered²⁴ outside, defending the nest while she sat on eggs.
- 23 Dad was now well enough to go outside, but he still couldn’t reach the backyard. He asked us to check inside the nesting box once a day. When we’d return, the questions came. “Is she on the nest?” he asked. “Have the eggs hatched²⁵? Did you see that showboat²⁶ what’s-his-name²⁷?”
- 24 “Caruso, Dad,” I replied. “He has a name, you know.” Dad’s smile
15. nestling *n.* 未离巢的雏鸟
16. boost *vt.* 提高, 增进
17. resplendent *adj.* 辉煌的, 灿烂的
18. courtship *n.* 求爱, 求偶
19. passionately *adv.* 激动地, 热情地
20. feverishly *adv.* 兴奋地, 狂热地
21. aloof *adj.* 冷淡的
22. perch *n.* (鸟的) 栖木
23. unfold *vi.* 展开
24. flutter *vi.* 振翼, 拍翅
25. hatch *vi.* 孵, 孵出
26. showboat *n.* 好卖弄的人

reflected the devilment²⁸ that had returned to his eyes.

25 When the eggs hatched, we marveled at the Herculean efforts Caruso and his mate spent to capture insects for their brood. Nestlings must be fed every 20 minutes.

26 Near the end of May, the little birds left the nest. By then Dad was able to walk to the fields beyond and see what other bluebird news there might be. Mom and I would watch him from the kitchen window. “He gave something to those bluebirds,” she said quietly one day. “Now they’ve given it back.”

(928 words)

27. what's-his-name 某某, 某人 (用以代替记不起来的名字)

28. devilment *n.* 恶作剧

Note

Herculean: 意为“赫拉克勒斯的, 大力神的; 艰巨的”。该词的名词 Hercules 即赫拉克勒斯。根据希腊神话, 赫拉克勒斯是主神宙斯之子, 力大无比。

EXERCISES

Reading Skills

I. Finding the Main Idea: The main idea is what the author tries to get across to the reader. It can be determined by analyzing the topic sentence or the conclusion, or by summing up the writer's major points. Choose the one that best answers each question.

- Which of the following is the main idea of Paragraphs 6–8?

A. Dad had a heart attack.	B. Dad had a hard life.
C. Dad built a nesting box.	D. Dad built our house.
- What does Paragraph 10 mainly deal with?

A. Every job Dad did.	B. Dad's craftsmanship.
C. The principles Dad lived by.	D. Dad's efforts to protect bluebirds.
- What are Paragraphs 11–15 primarily concerned with?

A. Dad built bluebird nesting boxes.
B. Dad was quite interested in bluebirds.
C. Dad recovered from his heart attack.
D. Dad offered to give the help the bluebirds needed.

4. Which of the following is the main idea of Paragraphs 19–22?
 - A. The father's great love for bluebirds.
 - B. The significance of bluebirds for Dad.
 - C. The love story of a couple of bluebirds.
 - D. The bluebirds' efforts to feed their brood.
5. Which of the following best expresses the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Dad led a hard life when he was young but he still had a good life.
 - B. Dad did a lot of research on the bluebirds he saw in his backyard.
 - C. Dad made great efforts to protect bluebirds in spite of his heart attack.
 - D. Dad acquired strength from bluebirds to recover from his disease.

II. Drawing Inferences: Choose the one that you think is a good inference based on each statement from the passage.

1. The season was wrong, but I couldn't get bluebirds out of my head. (Para. 1)
 - A. We couldn't catch any bluebirds during the cold winter season.
 - B. It was wrong to assume that we could see bluebirds in the winter.
 - C. I kept thinking about bluebirds although they didn't appear in the winter.
 - D. I could imagine what bluebirds looked like even though they didn't appear.
2. Now I wondered, will he ever see one again? (Para. 2)
 - A. I'm not sure whether Dad wanted to see a bluebird again.
 - B. I'm not sure whether Dad could recover from the heart attack.
 - C. I'm not sure whether we could meet each other ever again.
 - D. I'm not sure whether Dad could build a box for bluebirds again.
3. As the family hovered at his bedside, he drifted in and out of consciousness. (Para. 4)
 - A. When the family gathered at his bed, he recovered his consciousness.
 - B. When the family sat around his bed, he was lost in silent thought.
 - C. When the family gathered at his bed, he didn't talk with them.
 - D. When the family gathered at his bed, his condition was not stable.
4. Each job had its claim on your best efforts. (Para. 10)
 - A. You should try your best to do each job.
 - B. Without reward, no one could do a job well.
 - C. Your effort will pay off if you do your best.
 - D. You should know whether you could do your job well.
5. Now they've given it back. (Para. 26)
 - A. The bluebirds have left the nesting boxes.
 - B. The bluebirds have given back the nesting boxes.
 - C. The bluebirds don't like the nesting boxes.
 - D. The bluebirds have given Dad spiritual support.

Reading and Discussion

III. Discuss the following questions with your classmates.

1. This passage tells us how a father recovered from his heart attack with the spiritual support from bluebirds. What do you think is the best way to fight against a disease?
2. For the father, the bluebird is a sign of hope, triumph and family loyalty. Discuss the significance of a bird or any other animal for you.

PASSAGE **B**

Preview

Read the title and the first paragraph, and then answer the following questions.

1. What is the passage likely to discuss?
2. Which of the following statements is TRUE of the situation described in the first paragraph?
 - A. Many children suffered from paralysis.
 - B. Many children died from many different fatal diseases.
 - C. Hospitals were crowded with flies in the children's wards.
 - D. People were frightened because they thought their children would die.



My Father Gave Me Life Twice

- 1 Children were dying—dropping like flies, people whispered in fearful tones. In some places, hospitals were so crowded that beds, overflowing¹ the wards, spilled out into hallways and lined the walls, each bed bearing the paralyzed² form of a child.
- 2 Dr. Jonas Salk's vaccine³ wasn't available until 1955. It was too late for me. Polio invaded my body one summer, I was eight years old. The disease attacked my central nervous system. I began choking, and then I experienced a total inability to swallow. Soon the dreaded⁴ paralysis⁵ crept into my neck, legs and right arm.
- 3 The doctors told my parents that, with therapy, I would probably regain the use of my arm and legs. But I would have to wear a neck brace⁶ for the rest of my life and go to a special school for crippled children.
- 4 “No,” was my father's answer to a life of pity and dependence. “My daughter will never go to that school.” Neither would his little girl live out her life in a brace.

1. overflow *vt.* 人多得使……无法容纳
2. paralyzed *adj.* 瘫痪的, 麻痹的
3. vaccine *n.* 疫苗
4. dreaded *adj.* 可怕的, 吓人的
5. paralysis *n.* 瘫痪
6. brace *n.* 支架

- 5 My father, Leland Holmes Whipple, had no more than a high-school education, but he read everything he could find on infantile⁷ paralysis. He talked to doctors, nurses and therapists, and concluded that if my muscles could be exercised artificially⁸, permanent⁹ atrophy¹⁰ might not take place. An osteopath¹¹ agreed, and my father vowed¹² to remove me from the hospital as soon as possible to get that therapy. He instructed me, however, to do everything the medical doctors in the hospital told me—to the best of my ability. This was nothing new; my father had always taught me to do my best.
- 6 Over the months I saw many little girls leave. In wheelchairs. But my father promised me we would walk out together. I never heard “if you get well” from him. It was always “when you get well.”
- 7 I couldn’t walk out of the hospital, and I was mortified¹³. My father apologized—it was his fault, not mine, he said. But he didn’t make me go in a wheelchair like the others. He carried me in his arms.
- 8 The first day home, my father sat me on his lap at the piano, supporting my head against his chest, and placed my hands on the keyboard¹⁴. My right hand slipped from the keys. “It’s all right,” he assured me firmly. “You’ll be playing soon enough.”
- 9 Coming home from work many times a day, my father laid me across the piano bench and forced me to lift sandbags placed on my forehead, arm and legs. One major neck muscle had atrophied, so I worked to strengthen the others to compensate. Little by little, I began to hold my head up all by myself. I was now walking rather well. I could write slowly and had even plunked¹⁵ out a few piano notes.
- 10 Next came a mirror (my father’s idea, of course) at my place on the dinner table. Much of my swallowing mechanism had been paralyzed—it still is—and in order to eat, I had to turn my head all the way to the right to swallow. Viewing myself in the mirror, I practiced holding my head straight until I mastered eating without seeming to look out the window with every bite.
- 11 School was nearly out. I was weak and very thin. Representatives

7. *infantile adj.* 婴儿的, 幼儿的

8. *artificially adv.* 人工地

9. *permanent adj.* 永久的

10. *atrophy n.* 萎缩, 萎缩症

11. *osteopath n.* 整骨医生

12. *vow vi.* 发誓

13. *mortified adj.* 非常窘迫的

14. *keyboard n.* (钢琴、计算机等的) 键盘

15. *plunk vt.* 发出叮咚的拨弹声

of the school board, observing my slowness and pallor¹⁶, informed my father that I was not well enough to return. Why bother for two weeks?

12 My father marched straight to the principal and begged her. “We’ve got to help my daughter start feeling normal again,” he insisted. “Returning to school is her reward for all her work.”

13 I was given a chance. I passed my tests at the top of the class, and walked out of school for summer vacation with the rest of the kids.

14 That summer my father went further into debt to purchase a lot on a lake. He built a cottage with his own hands so I could have water therapy every day. He taught me how to swim, to improve my overall condition. He decided sailing would be good for my arms.

15 He finally did teach me to sail, and also how to water-ski. Then to bring grace to my body movements and peace to my spirit, he showed me fly casting¹⁷ in the early glow of a shimmering¹⁸ sunrise.

16 The next autumn, I resumed¹⁹ ballet²⁰ and piano lessons. My dance teacher didn’t think I was ready, but my father convinced her otherwise.

17 By the time I entered junior high school two years later, I was normal. “You’ll be meeting lots of new kids who know nothing of your illness,” my father counseled. “Never tell anyone about it. It’s over and past.” I took his advice. To this day, very few people, even close friends, know about this event in my life.

18 My 18th birthday came one day in late November. At the end of the day I was in my bedroom. Staring at my bare²¹ neck in the dressing-table mirror, I imagined what it would look like encased²² in leather and steel. I rushed straight to my parents’ bedroom and knocked urgently²³ on the door. When my father opened it, I ran, sobbing, into his arms. “Thank you, daddy, for giving me life... twice.” He only smiled and hugged me.

19 My father died at age 61. But he lived to see me, an honor student, dance and sing my way through high school, teaching ballet to put myself through Michigan State University. Instead of braces placed on my neck, he saw crowns²⁴ placed on my head when I won various beauty-pageant²⁵ competitions.

16. pallor *n.* (肤色或脸色) 苍白

17. fly casting 假蝇钓鱼

18. shimmer *vi.* 发出微光

19. resume *vt.* 重新开始

20. ballet *n.* 芭蕾舞

21. bare *adj.* 赤裸的, 无遮蔽的

22. encase *vt.* 包住

23. urgently *adv.* 迫切地, 急切地

24. crown *n.* 王冠, 花冠

25. pageant *n.* 选美 (竞赛)

(948 words)

4. The tone of the passage can best be described as _____.
- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| A. humorous | B. serious |
| C. ironic | D. critical |
5. This passage is written to _____.
- A. narrate how the writer's father helped her recover from polio
 - B. argue for the importance of physical exercise for one's health
 - C. convince the readers that a doctor is of no help in curing polio
 - D. prove that a good mood is of importance for one's recovery

PASSAGE ©

Preview

Read the first two sentences of each paragraph. Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

1. _____ The author's dad offered her attention and care before and after she started a family.
2. _____ The author moved to Arizona after her relationship ended.
3. _____ The author's dad and mom moved to Arizona to live with her.
4. _____ After the orange tree died, the author and her dad tried another type instead.
5. _____ The author arrived in Minnesota just before her dad went into a coma.
6. _____ The author thought about her dad and got comfort from a tree they planted.



Dad's Orange Tree

- 1 I guess I've always been a daddy's girl. Dad ran the only funeral home in our small Minnesota town. Maybe it came from spending so much time comforting other folks, but from skinned knees to high-school heartbreaks¹, he knew just what to do or say to make me feel better.
- 2 It was no different after I grew up and started a family of my own. Dad was more than a grandfather to my two sons. He gave them support and advice from the time they started walking until they left home. When I went through my divorce, Dad was right there to ease the terrible hurt of that as well.
- 3 In the wake of² the breakup³, I decided to spread my wings⁴, so I took a job in Arizona. The move was exciting—terrifying⁵, too. I'd never lived so far from my family before. The house I bought had looked homey enough when the realtor⁶ showed it to me, but once

1. heartbreak *n.* 伤心事

2. in the wake of 尾随，在……之后

3. breakup *n.* (婚约等的) 破裂

I moved in it felt all wrong—too big for a divorced woman whose kids had grown up and moved out on their own⁷.

- 4 Dad and Mom came to Arizona to spend the holidays with me. It was my first Christmas without snow. That seemed to suit Dad fine. “You just haven’t done anything with the place yet,” Dad said. “It’ll be wonderful once you make it yours. And look at that yard! Plenty of room for some nice trees. Let’s go find a nursery and see what they recommend.”
- 5 We bought a baby palm⁸ tree, only two feet tall, and planted it in the backyard. Stepping back and wiping the dirt from my hands, I realized Dad was right. The place felt a bit more like home now.
- 6 I took root and flourished in my new home, just like that little tree. Each Christmas, Mom took a picture of Dad and me standing beside it, then beneath its thick fronds⁹. With each visit came more plants and trees—hibiscus¹⁰ bushes, Mexican fan palms¹¹, and arborvitae¹² soon crowded right up to the patio¹³ window. “Have the roses bloomed yet?” Dad would ask on the phone. “Make sure you’re giving them enough water.” Far as I was from home, Dad was keeping an eye out for¹⁴ me, just like always.
- 7 Yuma County, where I live, is one of the biggest citrus¹⁵ producers in the country. Orange orchards line the roads in every direction, and summer nights are full of their sweet, tangy¹⁶ scent¹⁷. “I don’t know why it took me so long to get one of these,” Dad said one visit, unloading a baby orange tree from the back of the car. “This is an Arizona sweet orange. Before long you’ll be making fresh-squeezed orange juice every day.”
- 8 “How’s the new addition doing?” He asked a few weeks later. I almost didn’t have the heart to tell him. The little tree he’d planted had dried up and died.
- 9 On next year’s visit, Dad bought another orange tree, this time getting vitamins for the soil and advice on watering from the nursery. But once again, the leaves turned brown not long after he and Mom went home to Minnesota. Over the years, Dad planted six Arizona sweet orange trees in my yard. None of them lasted more than a few weeks.
- 10 Dad bought yet another orange tree when he came to visit in

4. spread one’s wings 大展宏图, 充分发挥自己的才能
5. terrifying *adj.* 可怕的
6. realtor *n.* 房地产经纪人
7. on one’s own 独立地, 独自地
8. palm *n.* 棕榈
9. frond *n.* 叶子
10. hibiscus *n.* 木槿
11. fan palm 扇叶葵, 蒲葵
12. arborvitae *n.* 金钟柏
13. patio *n.* 天井, 庭院
14. keep an eye out for 密切注意
15. citrus *n.* 柑橘属果树
16. tangy *adj.* 扑鼻的, 刺激性的
17. scent *n.* 气味, 香味

December, 2000. Together Dad and I dug a hole in a different part of the backyard and planted it, but Dad's heart wasn't in it. He'd just turned 80, and for the first time, his age was catching up with him. He got tired easily, especially working outside, and complained about the cold, even on warm days.

11 That year's orange tree went the way of all the rest. Before he and Mom had left for Minnesota its branches had drooped¹⁸ and its leaves had withered. All life was clearly gone from it. "I guess we should dig it up," I said. Dad agreed. But every day we found another excuse not to. I got home from work too late, or Dad was too tired. Mom and Dad drove off at the end of January, the sad little tree still in the ground.

18. droop *vi.* 低垂, 凋萎

12 Two weeks later, I got a phone call from Mom. Dad had been diagnosed with a rare and deadly cancer. It was at an advanced stage and he was fading fast, Mom said.

13 By the time I got to Minnesota, Dad was already in a coma¹⁹. There was nothing I could do but sit by his bed in the hospital, holding his hand and praying through that long day and into the night. Dad passed away peacefully the next morning. This was heartbreak like I'd never known before. Dad would have found just the right words to help me, I thought, like he always did. The only person who could comfort me was gone.

19. coma *n.* 昏迷

14 I flew back to Arizona a few weeks after the funeral. But as soon as I walked through the door of my house, it felt as cold and lonely as it had the day I moved in. Lord, who would comfort me now? I asked.

15 I took my coffee out onto the back patio the next morning. The first thing my eye fell on was Dad's last orange tree. It's time I dug that up, I thought. But sad as it was, that little tree reminded me too much of Dad. I couldn't bring myself to uproot²⁰ it, not yet.

20. uproot *vt.* 连根拔起, 根除

16 Slowly, mercifully, the routines of daily life took over. Sometimes I'd notice a new blossom in the backyard and catch myself making a mental note to tell Dad about it. The pain would surge up again for a moment, but I got through it. Little by little, I was moving forward.

17 Then one warm May evening, I was planting some bulbs²¹ in a patch²² of the yard near Dad's orange tree. It's really time I got rid of that, I thought. I'm ready. I took Dad's shovel and went over to the tree. Just as I was about to begin digging, I noticed something straining²³ toward the sun in the grass beside it. A thin, green sapling²⁴, less than a foot tall, but already sprouting²⁵ tiny, pale-green leaves. Carefully, I took one of the leaves, rubbed it between my thumb and forefinger²⁶, and held it to my nose. The smell—so tangy, so distinct²⁷.

18 Dad was gone. But the comfort I needed was as close as the leaf in my hand.

(1,089 words)

21. bulb *n.* 球茎

22. patch *n.* 一块, 一片

23. strain *vi.* 努力, 使劲

24. sapling *n.* 树苗

25. sprout *vi.* 发芽

26. forefinger *n.* 食指

27. distinct *adj.* 独特的

EXERCISES

Reading Skills

I. Reading for Details: Read the passage carefully to find the details. Choose the one that best answers each question.

- It can be seen from the passage that _____.
 - the author didn't get on well with her life and work in Arizona
 - the author wasn't able to get over the loss of her father
 - the divorce proved to be a heavy blow for the author and hurt her
 - the author felt terrified of her life in Arizona without her family
- The author's dad planted _____ orange trees in her backyard.

A. 5	B. 6
C. 7	D. 8
- Which of the following is TRUE according to the passage?
 - The author's dad was very strict with his kids when he got older.
 - The author's dad taught his kids how to get on well with others.
 - The author's dad was quite satisfied with the things in his life.
 - The author's dad was always there to offer her help and comfort.
- The author was reluctant to dig up her dad's last orange tree because _____.
 - its branches had drooped
 - all life was clearly gone from it
 - she was sure the tree was not dead
 - it reminded her of her father

5. What does Dad's orange tree mean to the author?
- A. It means hope for her life.
 - B. It means Dad's courage.
 - C. It means Dad's love and comfort.
 - D. It means her happy childhood.

Translation

II. Translate the following sentences into Chinese. The sentences are underlined in the above passage.

1. He gave them support and advice from the time they started walking until they left home. When I went through my divorce, Dad was right there to ease the terrible hurt of that as well. (Para. 2)
2. In the wake of the breakup, I decided to spread my wings, so I took a job in Arizona. (Para. 3)
3. The house I bought had looked homey enough when the realtor showed it to me, but once I moved in it felt all wrong—too big for a divorced woman whose kids had grown up and moved out on their own. (Para. 3)
4. There was nothing I could do but sit by his bed in the hospital, holding his hand and praying through that long day and into the night. (Para. 13)
5. But as soon as I walked through the door of my house, it felt as cold and lonely as it had the day I moved in. (Para. 14)