

Story #1

Background

The Spanish Flu of 1918 had come to Indiana in Evansville, IN on September 20 and by October 11, the flu has spread to the entire state. The Indiana Board of Health has banned all public gatherings and funerals, and schools are closed. If you are to go out in public, you are required to wear a mask covering your nose and mouth in stores and streetcars. About 12% of the people in the State of Indiana are ill.

Characters

Mr. Graffis- you are deathly sick with the flu, and your wife has just died on Wednesday. You have three children, ages 4, 9, and 13, who are two younger boys and one older girl.

Four year old- You do not understand that mommy is not coming back. You have been wetting the bed at night and throwing terrible tantrums.

Nine year old- You have not been back to school, miss you friends, and are very sad that your mother has died. You play doctor over and over again with your dolls hoping to cure a sick mother and her family. Whenever you hear your dad cough, you check to see if he is still alive.

13 year old- You have been isolating yourself since your mother's death. You have thought about taking your own life before the flu kills you too, as you also know that your father is deathly ill.

Children's aunt- You feel grieved that your sister has died from the flu and the doctors have also told you that your sister's husband will also die soon. You wonder what will happen to the children and how you can help. You are overwhelmed with grief and the possible responsibility of caring for three children, in addition to three of your own.

Health care case worker- You have been assigned to this family to assist them. What are their needs and how can these needs be addressed. How would you help?

THE REAL STORY, taken from Indiana Records

The victims included a Mrs. Estil Graffis and her husband, who lived in Fulton County (north-central Indiana). Estil died on a Wednesday. Her husband followed her the next Monday. Within a week, influenza had made orphans of their three children. Tragic stories like that of the Graffis' were not uncommon across the state.

Story #2

The Rwandan genocide occurred in 1994 when hundreds of thousands of the Tutsis were killed by the Hutus. Approximately this would be 10,000 murdered every day, 400 every hour, 7 every minute. There were many widows who were submitted to rape who are now HIV positive. There were about 400,000 orphans and 85,000 of them became heads of family.

Characters

Clementine- When you were six years old, you hid under a banana tree as you listened as your family was slaughtered by shotguns and machetes. You were tortured by the Hutu and are blind as a result. You are now 16 and have moved to the US and have begun to have flashbacks and nightmares about what has happened. You can not concentrate at school and while you want to trust your new family, it is difficult. You often wake up screaming in the night realizing you have terrible dreams and flashbacks but can not see anything else.

Adopted mother- You want to help your adopted daughter, and the screams at night break your heart. Your daughter is failing all of her classes and you wonder what you can do.

Friend of Clementine- You have heard Clementine talk about suicide, as she has told you her whole story and are not sure how to help her with her pain. You are afraid to tell an adult for fear of breaking confidence with Clementine. You just do not know what to do.

Clementine's teacher- You have noticed that Clementine has been acting different than the other kids. She is in her own world, and does not seem to be present in class. You notice that she has drawn skull bones on her folder. You know that she lived through the genocide, so you figure that is what she is drawing. You wonder what you can do.

Counselor- You have heard about this new student at school who has been through the Rwandan genocide. What can you do to help?

THE REAL STORY

Clementine Wamariya, 19, right now is living a typical New Trier High School junior's life, apparently far removed from the genocide in Rwanda that killed many in her family. But Wamariya says she'll always be haunted by the memory of hiding under a banana tree at the age of 6, and listening to screams as relatives were slaughtered with shotguns and machetes. "I'm here to say our world is so messed up," Wamariya told more than 800 Glenbrook North students gathered to hear her talk in the Center for Performing Arts during the Northbrook school's annual Diversity Week.

Story #3

The year is 2004, and the Asia Tsunami has claimed over 220,000 people. The Tsunami occurred after an earthquake occurred underwater in the Indian oceans. Due to aid assistance, some fishing villages have been built but others have not returned.

Lam- You lost your wife and five children in the tsunami. You are devastated by this loss and feel numb most of the time. Your livelihood, home, and family has been destroyed and you have aches and pains in your body most of the time. You have remarried and have a new son, yet your life feels empty and purposeless.

Wife of Lam- You have been widowed by the tsunami, and have found a new husband. You are happy to have a new life and be rebuilding. Your new husband does not share this feeling. He says he is happy with you, yet he appears sad much of the time and complains of aches and pains. Sometimes at night you can feel him shaking but when you ask him what is wrong he says nothing. You feel overwhelmed with taking care of your new son, and you wish your husband could help.

Disaster Crisis Counselor- You have been assigned to the Aceh province of Lam Tutui to assess and care for the needs of a fishing village. You are responsible for training individuals there in identifying those with mental health needs. How will you consult with the local helpers?

Aceh Buddhist Priest- You are one of the 75 survivors of this village. You have volunteered to assist with the spiritual and emotional needs of those in need and are working with a Disaster Crisis Counselor sent from a relief agency.

THE REAL STORY

In Lam Tutui, 54-year-old villager Keuchik Baharuddin recalled how he heard the monkeys in the trees screaming wildly before the tsunami hit, killing his wife and all five of his children.

“I saw our village had been leveled to the ground,” he said.

One of only 75 people from the village of 545 to survive, Baharuddin has rebuilt a semblance of his old life in a gleaming new village, marrying a tsunami widow who has just given birth to a baby son.

So many houses have been built with aid that survivors are now making money on the side by renting them to tenants while other houses sit empty, he said.

Story #4

It is August 24, 79AD and a sighting of a column of smoke 'like an umbrella pine' on the far side of the Bay of Naples is alarming. There have been earth tremors over the past few days. Within minutes, many are fleeing northwards, and a dense black cloud of ash has blotted out the light, and the crowds of screaming people fleeing around them are in terror. There are hundreds of refugees sheltering in the vaulted arcades at the seaside in Herculaneum, clutching their jewelry and money, and all wonder what will occur.

Characters

Elderly man- You have been trembling since the eruption and walk with a limp. You just can not get out of the city fast enough. How can you be helped? The ash is falling faster and faster. You are seeing your whole life flash before your eyes.

Pliny's uncle- You leave your own city nearby to help those in need. How are you to help those in the village out? Who needs special attention?

Middle aged woman- You have been able to run quickly to get out of the city. You still see many people struggling. What can you do to help?

Street ware seller-It has been a good day on the street, and then all of the sudden, this ash storm came. You are terrified and are racing down the street with your large cart of wares. You hope that you can find shelter soon so you can save yourself and your belongings. Your cart is large and full of many valuables.

THE REAL STORY

Pompeii was destroyed during a two day eruption in 79AD. People were buried in ash trying to escape. Pompeii was buried under 60 feet of ash and was lost for nearly 1700 years before it was discovered in the mid 1700s. Pliny, a Roman administrator and poet gave an account of the happenings. His uncle went into Pompeii to rescue those in need and never returned.

Story #5

It is May 28, 1917. A tornado has affected an area 20 miles long and 5 miles wide in northwest Indiana. There are three dead, five dying, and 40 injured with property damage of about \$500,000. The tornado has affected the areas of Hebron, Shelby, Crown Point, Lowell, Cedar Lake, with Hebron being the most affected. There is a call out for doctors to assist.

Doctor- You arrive on the scene and you are trying to rescue those from the rubble. You are trying to help one man, Roy Smith who has had both of his legs broken. He is crying and screaming as you arrive and is not allowing anyone near him.

Roy- You have been crushed by debris from the tornado. All you can see before your eyes is debris flying at you and you now realize your legs are not moving. You are terrified and not sure what to do. You consider taking some pills the doctor gave you for an ailment as you know your life will not be the same.

Rescue worker- Have driven a long way in an auto to help the doctors on the scene. You have never witnessed a scene like this before. You are in utter shock at the destruction this tornado has caused.

Looter- You have survived the tornado's destruction and see this as your chance to make some money. In particular, you are trying to find medicines you can sell to others in the aftermath of the tornado to help "deal" with their pain.

Police- You are on the watch for crimes that could be committed in the aftermath of a disaster. You know that the good and bad in humanity shows up when a disaster occurs.

THE REAL STORY

On May 28, 1918 a huge tornado swept through northwest Indiana which affected Hebron, Shelby, Crown Point, Lowell, and Cedar Lake. Hebron was most affected with its 1500 residents. Many showed up in their autos to help. Roy Smith was one of those injured in the disaster with two broken legs. Those who died were crushed or were hit by flying debris. Three dead are reported at Crown Point. Between Crown Point and Hebron the wind overturned a railroad construction camp of eight cars on the Panhandle. The cook's car set fire to the others and **Mike Mitke**, the foreman, was fatally hurt while twenty members of the crew were more or less injured. At Hebron the wind went through the outskirts of the city and several cottages were demolished and the Gridley elevator destroyed. Huge trees were uprooted and carried miles. At Crown Point all the fair ground grand stands and horse barns were demolished. **Joseph Shields**, an aged horse trainer, was fatally hurt. At Cedar Lake, the **Colmon** stock farm was razed and **Mr. and Mrs. Ailman** were picked up from the ruins fatally crushed. At Lowell and east of it many farm houses were reported overturned but no reports of death, though several were hurt. At Shelby, **John Wright** was crushed when flying timbers from a house struck him. Four are seriously hurt there.

It is October 11, 1871. Fire has swept through the great city of Chicago. You are in Lincoln Park, and there are 50,000 homeless there, with provisions for only 500. The fire has even burned through the cemetery. Many are walking around not knowing what to do.

Homeless man- You ran from your home but know that your wife is trapped in the rubble of a burned out building as it was too dangerous for her to leave. She was too afraid to leave her home and her possessions. Firefighters are telling you that she must leave soon as the building will be deteriorating within the next day.

Doctor- You have been assigned to work the north side of Chicago and help those who do not want to leave their burned out homes. You realize the danger to them but no one seems to be taking you seriously. You wonder what help you can enlist to convince those to leave those dangerous buildings.

Firefighter- You have been working all night trying to put out fires. The images, the screams of horror and burned bodies are ever before your mind. You know that you need to stop, but can not as there are still lives that need to be saved.

Priest- You have been praying with various people in the area as they have seen and lost so much. You are overwhelmed with their burdens, and wonder how God could have allowed such a terrible thing to happen. You are trying to counsel others, but have the same questions yourself.

THE REAL STORY

The Chicago Fire- Nothing but the destruction of Pompeii can outline the savageness and rapidity of its career. It fed on everything – the Nicholson pavement of the streets, the sidewalks, the fences; for example, one instance in many, a lady and her children took refuge four times, and four times that flaming sword pointed “onward!” until she found shelterless safety, with hundreds of others, five miles from home, on the open prairie, where they passed the fearful night. Others were surrounded by the fire and rushed into the lake, where, by plunging under the water as the heat became unbearable, they saved their own and children’s lives. Again, delicate women fled along the streets, their footsteps licked by the dogging flames, igniting their hastily-donned clothing. A cry! A stop! And the fire is put out by some friendly hand; that brief stop is almost fatal, and the utmost speed is needed to regain lost ground in this race for life. Into the old graveyard – over the graves of the dead – fled the living, as through the dry grass and over the fences and trees crept or leaped the enemy, beyond all houses, into Lincoln Park, on to the barren lake shore; and there, exhausted, they sank thankful on the sand.