

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Student notes for:** Hospital Sketches, Chapter III: A Day

**Day:** 3

1. What words does Alcott use to describe the men on pages 3 & 4? What “first impression” does she create with those descriptions?
2. In what ways are the nurse’s first two interactions with soldiers, the “Old Irishman” (p.5) and the “cheerful philosopher” (p.6), unexpected after Alcott’s general description of the soldiers? What do these interactions show us about the soldiers?
3. What virtues does the Sergeant with the gingerbread mustache represent (p. 6)? How do you know?
4. Reread and identify each additional episode when the nurse interacts with a soldier. For each episode, jot notes on both the characterization of the soldiers through the nurse’s description and the characterization of the soldiers through the words they speak. What differences do you notice between the characterization through description and the characterization through dialogue?
5. What are the major traits of the Rebel soldier (p. 8-9)? Why does Alcott choose to make him “neither fiendish, romantic, pathetic, or anything interesting; but a long, fat man...”?
6. What is the effect of including the interaction with the rebel soldier after the nurse has already interacted with five Union soldiers?

