

Exercise 16 - b

- Read the following narrative essay.
- Use the techniques outlined in this unit to answer the vocabulary questions.
- Then answer the open-ended question.

Narrative Text

Fighting From Good Terrain: The Battle of Little Round Top

On July 2, 1863, Colonel Joshua Chamberlain of the Union Army was given an order. He could not let the Confederate Army outflank his regiment. His troops formed the end of a
1 line of Union troops that stretched over two miles long. If the Confederate troops could somehow maneuver around Chamberlain and his men, the Union Army would then be facing attacks from two sides. Losing the flank would be devastating to the Union Army.

Chamberlain and his men had one advantage over the approaching Confederates. They were entrenched on high ground overlooking woods and a series of big, dome shaped rocks. If the Confederate troops were going to defeat Chamberlain and his men, they would have to do it fighting uphill.

Soon, Chamberlain noted movement in the woods below. The number of flags he counted told him he was going to be facing many regiments. He realized there was a chance that he could be overwhelmed by sheer numbers. He hoped his defensive position could
3 offset the Confederate advantage. He began to find out as the Confederates launched their first wave of attack. Up the hill they came, but the Union troops proved to be in good position and were able to knock the Confederates back down the hill.

Chamberlain didn't let his troops rejoice for long because he knew the Confederates wouldn't relent that easily. He was right. They had reformed their lines in the woods and began an even more aggressive attack. Once again, Chamberlain and his men were able to
4 stop the assault and force the Confederates into retreat.

Chamberlain knew there would be one more attack. He also knew he was spreading his troops thin along the battle line to protect the flank that the Confederates were trying to get around. But he was also made aware of another problem. His troops were almost out of ammunition. He warned them to preserve what they had by taking only sure shots. Still, he
5 wasn't sure if they had enough to withstand one more assault.

He would find out soon enough. The Confederates were even more determined this time. He could hear it in their ominous screams as they came charging up the hill. There seemed to be more now than ever before. It didn't take long for the Union troops to finish their ammunition, but the Confederates were still charging. Chamberlain's men were preparing to retreat when he ordered them to attach their bayonets to the ends of their guns. Then he ordered his troops to launch their own attack. They swarmed down the hill and
6 charged into the Confederate troops with their bayonets in front of them. Surprised, many Confederates retreated and many others gave themselves up as prisoners.

Chamberlain knew he had protected the flank and the rest of the Union Army would be secure from an attack around his flank. He didn't know then how important his victory was on a place that was to be known as Little Round Top. But Chamberlain and his men had