

Braces: A Moving Experience

“Alright troops prepare for action. Only the strong will survive,” exclaimed Top Sergeant Central Incisor. “Some of you will have a closer bond; others may become separated. In less than one hour we are going into battle. Remember, this is no longer for individual glory, but for the good of the smile. The mouth’s future is at jeopardy and it is going to take a lot of cooperation – from everyone...yes, even you in the back, Molars. There is no time to be selfish, teeth. Now, who’s ready?”

There was a quiet but approving chatter. None of the teeth knew what they were getting into. They all knew they had a long, tough battle, but in the end, like Sergeant said, it would be for the perfect smile.

Three hours later, they were geared up. Their uniforms adjusted firmly; wires tight, armor in place. Month after month, they became more fit. Soon, the teeth would meet their full potential and achieve the perfect smile.

“Are we perfect, are we perfect yet?” anxiously asked Lower 2nd Bicuspid.

“Now, now, we’re getting there, slowly but surely,” answered Lower General Lateral Incisor. “Just imagine, in a while we will be able to shed our body armor and shine, show off our pearly whites.”

The seasons turned, and so did the teeth. By fall, their journey had ended. They had become the perfect smile. It was the night after the braces came off and the lieutenants, Sergeants and Generals were preparing for the ultimate ceremony. The voyage that these teeth completed may have been long and hard, but they moved together and were aligned perfectly.

“Now men, you did well. It was a long battle, but in the end, you have succeeded. I will now ask you all to repeat the Perfect Smile Oath...

I Tooth, solemnly swear to remain in place. I have completed a journey for the smile, not the tooth. I never knew how beautiful I could be until the other teeth and I came together as a unit. The union that we have created will stay with us always. Even under the worst of conditions, I will not resort back to my old ways. In taking this Oath I vow not to separate from the other teeth, for the good of the great glory: the perfect smile. May it shine brightly forever so that all who see it may be moved.