

Sentencing and paragraph exercise

A Life of Adventure

Mary Seacole was born in 1805 in Kingston, Jamaica. Her mother practiced as a "doctress" using medical knowledge which women had brought from Africa and developed in the tropics. From her mother, Mary inherited her medical skills as well as her ability to run a boarding house. From her father, a Scottish military man, she inherited her fascination with army life. Mary's own medical reputation was established during a series of cholera and yellow fever epidemics. She made her own medicines and emphasised high standards of hygiene as well as enforcing strict quarantine on victims. By these methods, she saved many lives on the outbreak of the Crimean War. Mary volunteered her services to the British Army, although she worked for the Army before at its own request. This time she was turned down. Undaunted, Mary made her own way to the war zone. Once in the Crimea, she not only nursed the soldiers but also ran a hotel and sold food, wine, and medicines. After the war, Mary was treated as a celebrity. She was decorated by the governments of four countries in England. A poem in her honour was published in *Punch*, and even the royal family requested her company and medical expertise.

(Cottrell, S. (2003), *The Study Skills Handbook*, 2nd Edition, Basingstoke, Palgrave, Macmillan)