



THE FLU OF 1918

Millions Dead Worldwide!



by Jessica Rudolph

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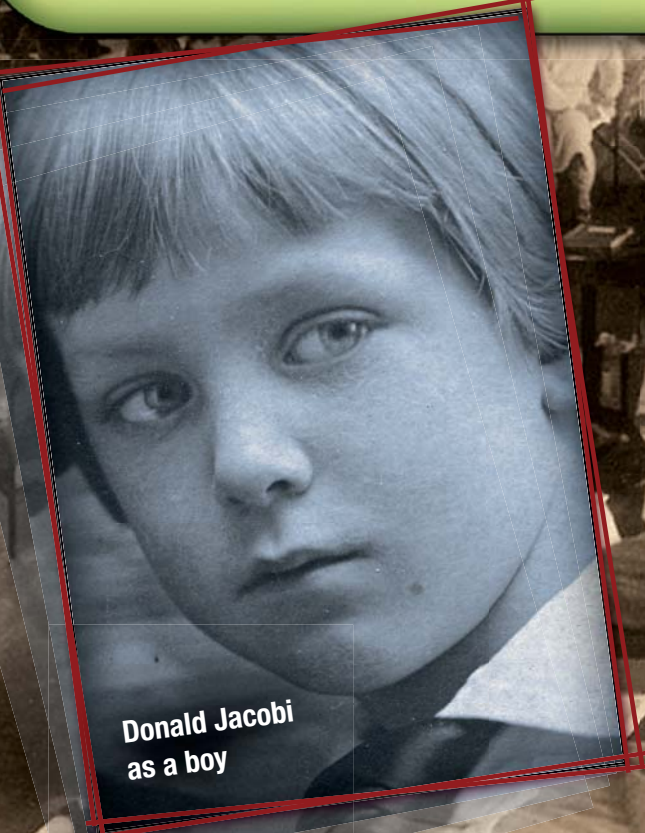
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Not the Normal Flu

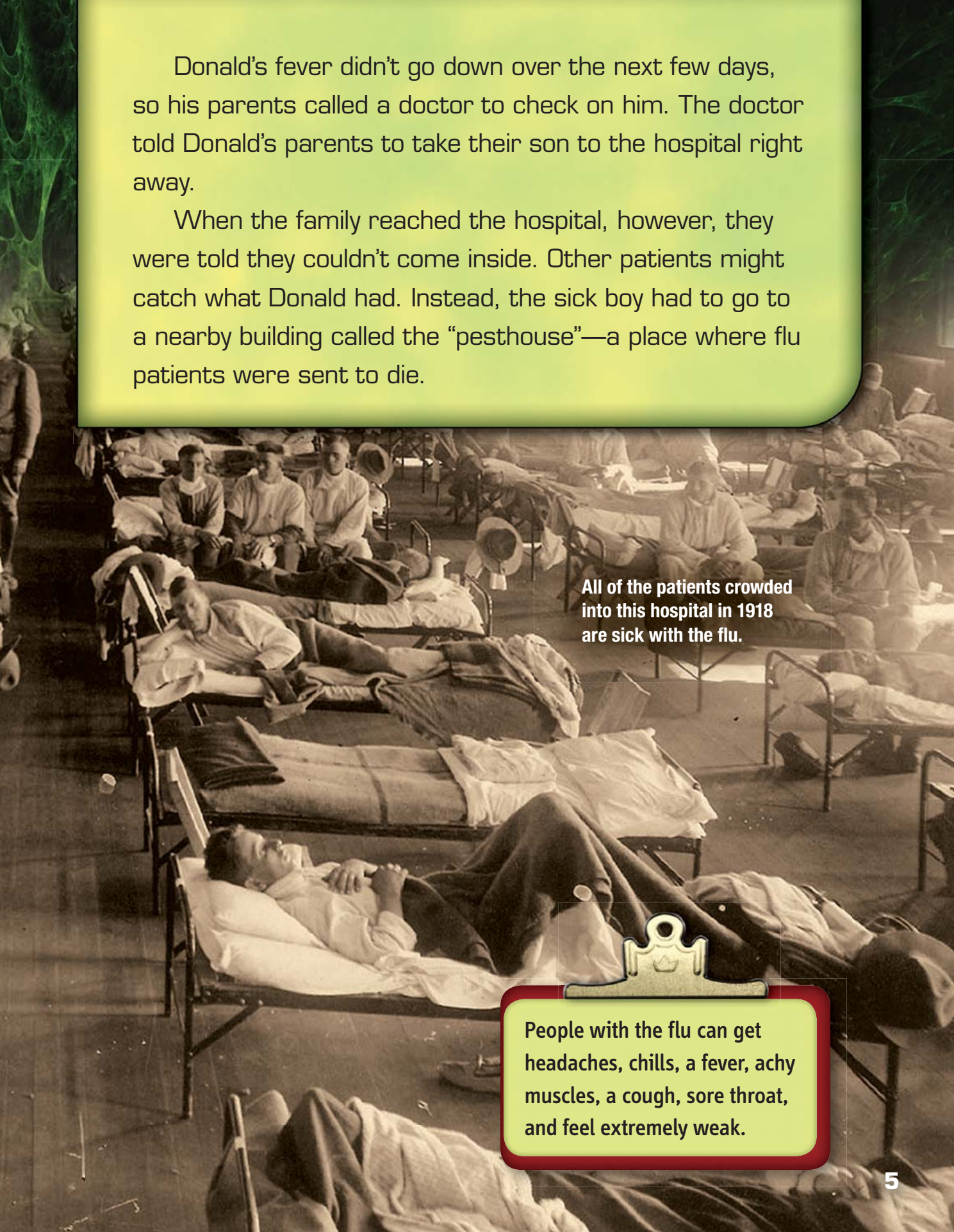
It was a fall day in 1918 when Donald Jacobi came home sick from school in South Buffalo, New York. The five-year-old had a high **fever**. Donald's parents were fairly certain that their son had **influenza**, or the flu. People with the flu feel very sick for a few days. However, they usually get better soon. Unfortunately, this was no ordinary flu.



Donald Jacobi
as a boy

Donald's fever didn't go down over the next few days, so his parents called a doctor to check on him. The doctor told Donald's parents to take their son to the hospital right away.

When the family reached the hospital, however, they were told they couldn't come inside. Other patients might catch what Donald had. Instead, the sick boy had to go to a nearby building called the "pesthouse"—a place where flu patients were sent to die.



All of the patients crowded into this hospital in 1918 are sick with the flu.

People with the flu can get headaches, chills, a fever, achy muscles, a cough, sore throat, and feel extremely weak.

"He'll Be Dead by Morning"

Donald's mother, Magdalena, asked a doctor in the pesthouse for help. "There's nothing we can do for him," he said. "He'll be dead by morning." Magdalena replied, "If he's going to die, he's going to die at home."

The family brought Donald to their car and began the drive back to their house. During the ride, Donald's health got worse. The five-year-old became **unconscious**. It seemed as though he might soon be dead.

**QUARANTINE
INFLUENZA**

KEEP OUT OF THIS HOUSE

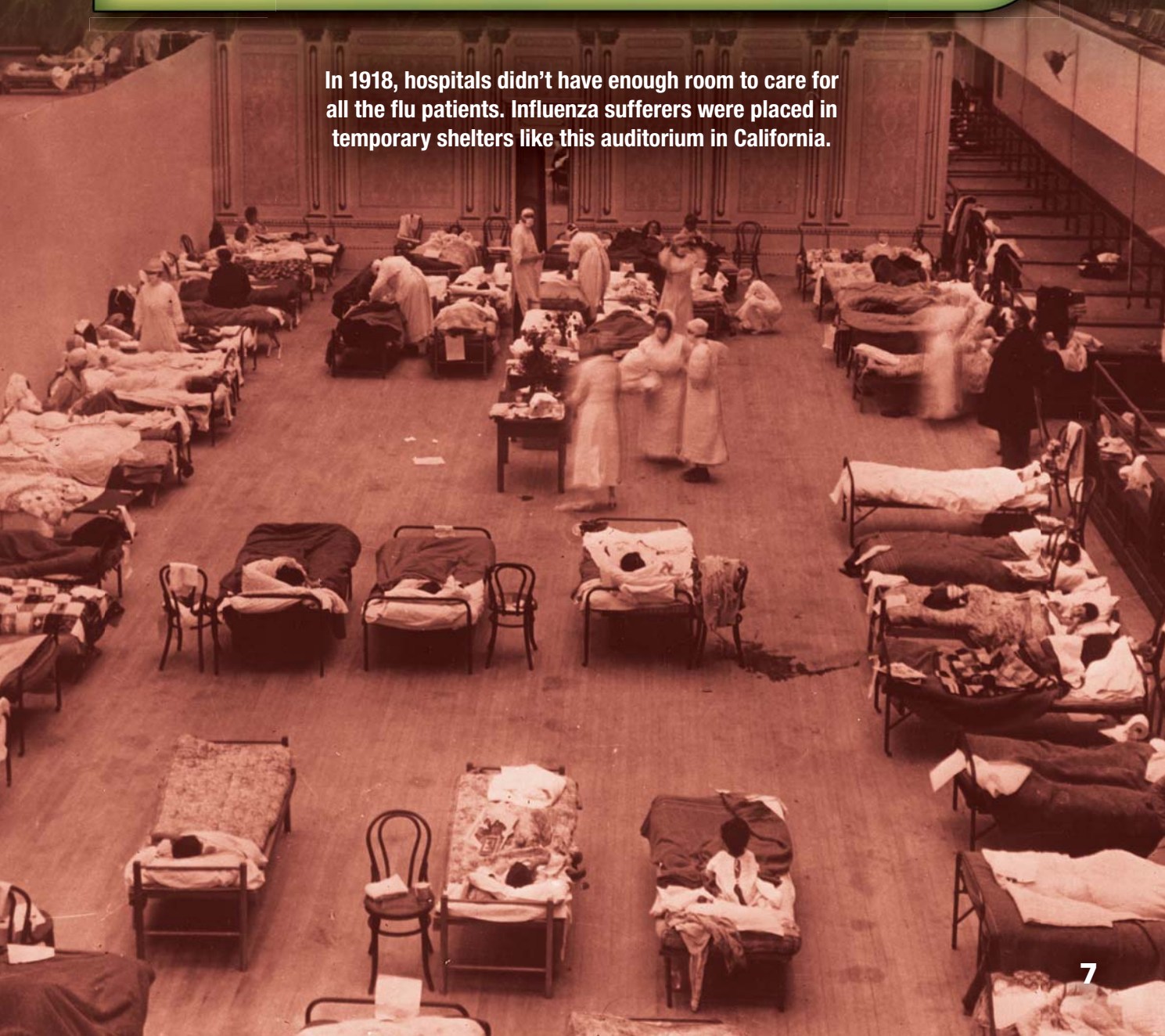
By Order of BOARD OF HEALTH
Blake D. Johnson
HEALTH OFFICER

The flu spreads quickly and easily between people. When Donald was sick, the Jacobis put a quarantine sign outside their home to warn friends and neighbors to stay away because they could catch the disease.

Surprisingly, Donald got better. After about a week he woke up. His family fed him soup and other hot liquids. Slowly, the young boy started to feel well again. He still needed rest, but over time he gained his strength back.

Unfortunately, others were not so lucky. The flu that almost killed Donald was also attacking millions of people around the world. How had this deadly **plague** spread so far and so fast?

In 1918, hospitals didn't have enough room to care for all the flu patients. Influenza sufferers were placed in temporary shelters like this auditorium in California.



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About the Author

Jessica Rudolph has edited many books about history. She recently learned that one of her great-great-aunts, an Irish immigrant named Nellie Casey, died in the 1918 flu pandemic while working as a nurse in New York City.

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THE FLU OF 1918

Millions Dead Worldwide!

On a fall day in 1918, Donald Jacobi came home sick from school in South Buffalo, New York. He had influenza, or the flu. A few days later, doctors told his parents that he'd be dead by morning. After all, the flu that was attacking Donald had already killed millions of people around the world.

How had this deadly plague spread so far and so fast? Look inside to find out more about Donald and other victims of influenza. You'll also discover what causes this dangerous illness, how it affects the body, and—most important—how to protect yourself from getting it in the first place.

Bubonic Plague
The Black Death!

Smallpox
Is It Over?

The Flu of 1918
Millions Dead Worldwide!

Tuberculosis
The White Plague!

Malaria
Super Killer!

Typhoid Fever
Dirty Food, Dirty Water!

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