

The wounds that can't be stitched up essay



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Ruth Russell's Essay, "The Wounds That Can't Be Stitched Up," basically talks about a traumatic experience she had that can never be erased from her memory. The wounds that she was pertaining to in her essay were caused by the sight of her mother and sister, who were nearly killed after a drunk driver rammed into their car two weeks before Christmas. Generally, Russell's wounds were both literal and figurative. It was literal in a sense that her mother suffered from multiple facial cuts while her sister had a severely fractured skull that left a permanent scar on her face.

Her sister's scar served as an eternal reminder for her family as to how close she was to death. Moreover, considering the fact that it happened during the Christmas season, in a way, the author implied that the traumatic experience of her family would be more or less relived every time they spend the holiday seasons together. In other words, the wounds of Russell and her family were not simply physical and superficial wounds but also psychological injuries that left an indelible mark on them, which is why she called them "wounds that cannot be stitched up."

However, Russell's wounds were also figurative in a sense that in her essay she blamed the drunk driver for solely causing her and her family's trauma. Although she emphasized that she has long forgiven the driver, she also implied that as long as there are people who drive while they are drunk, there will always be accidents and in effect, wounds that can never be stitched up. In addition, Russell also implied that it was important for people to always wear their seatbelts because in her essay, she admitted that her family was not wearing seatbelts and had they done so, the accident could have been less severe.