THE HOSPITAL WINDOW

Two men, both seriously ill, _____ (to lie) in the same hospital room. One of them,Ted, was luckier. He could sit in his bed and his bed was by the only window. Mike, however, had to lie on his back all the time.

Mike _____ (to feel) very depressed, because the doctors thought that he was going to die. So Ted would decribe to him things that he could see outside. The window had a view over the park and its lovely lake. It was a beautiful day. The sun _____ (to shine), birds _____ (to sing). Flowers _____ (to blossom). Ducks and swans _____ (to play) in the water. Children _____ (to give) bread to the ducks. Many couples of lovers _____ (to walk) in the park and _____ (to sit) under trees. Mike _____ (to listen) to the description with a smile on his face.

The next day, Mike asked Ted again what he _____ (to see) through the window. Ted described how some people _____ (to have)

a picnic. Children _____ (to walk) the dogs. Everyone _____ (to have) so much fun. A young lady _____ (to jog), a little girl _____ (to walk) along the lake with her father. Every day was a joyful sight. Mike, who could only see the ceiling, lived for the moments in which his friend would describe what he _____ (to see) day after day. He could not wait to recover.

One day Ted was released from the hospital. When he _____ (to leave), he said: »Goodbye, my friend. Stay stong and recover and soon you'll be able to see this beautiful park for yourself.« Mike promised to do so. Soon, he was finally able to get up and he immediately _____ (to want) to see this beautiful park that kept him alive and positive for so long.

But to his surprise the window of the room _____ (to face) a brick wall. The surprised man asked the nurse why his roommate _____ (to tell) him all the stories about the park if there _____ (to be) no park at all. The nurse _____ (to think) for a while and finally she said: »He just _____ (to want) you

to get better. He wanted to make you happy. And maybe by helping you, he _____ (to help) himself, too.«

Mike _____ (to realise) that making other people happy is the greatest happiness of all. Happiness, when shared, is doubled. He soon _____ (to leave) the hospital, promising the nurse to help others as Ted had helped him.