State House

The meetings at the State House were confidential. It was hot that summer, but the windows were kept closed. Guards kept watch to make sure no one heard any secrets from people in the State House. The delegates promised not to tell anyone what happened in their meetings.

The secrecy did not stop people from gathering in front of the State House. They knew important work was taking place. The locked windows and doors made the people curious.

The delegates had to be tough to get through the long, hot summer. If any of the delegates got sick or fainted from the heat, people called a doctor. It was important for the delegates to stay healthy.

Long ago, many people didn’t go to the doctor unless they were very sick. There wasn’t a lot of medicine. People often drank herbal teas to feel better when they were sick. They also made some medicines from plants. Sometimes people didn’t get better. Many people died from illnesses that are easy to treat today.
Dad came into the kitchen. He’d been listening to the weather update on the radio. “Well,” he said, “looks like Hurricane Diana is headed this way, and soon. We don’t have to evacuate, but we need to make sure we are prepared. Peter, did you take in the lawn chairs? I don’t want them blowing around in the storm.”

“Yes. They’re in the garage,” said Peter.

“Great,” said Dad. “Laura, do we have the supplies on the list in the basement?”

“Yes, Dad,” said Laura. “There’s bottled water, a radio, extra batteries, a flashlight, a first aid kit, blankets and some food.”

“Great,” said Dad. “I’m going to charge my cell phone now, in case the electricity goes out.”

“I’m going to wash my hair, in case the water turns off,” said Laura.

“I’ll be online!” said Peter, heading for the computer in the family room.

“As usual!” said Laura, rolling her eyes.