

## Firsthand Burden Answer Key

1. **Point of view:** First-person. Evidence includes "I write," "I tended," "I held the hand," which clearly show the narrator is speaking from personal experience.
2. **Effect on tone:** The first-person point of view creates intimacy and immediacy, allowing readers to feel the nurse's exhaustion, grief, and determination.
3. **If third-person:** The account would likely seem more distant and factual, describing "the nurse tended to twelve patients" instead of her own direct feelings, reducing emotional impact.
4. **Importance in history:** Point of view reveals personal perspectives, emotions, and lived experiences, helping us understand history not just as events but as human stories.

### Teacher Note:

Encourage students to compare how first-person sources (diaries, letters) differ from third-person historical accounts (textbooks). This builds awareness that historical texts are shaped by perspective and that readers must consider both the **facts** and the **voices telling them**.