



 Prestwick House

Activity Pack

FALLEN ANGELS

BY WALTER DEAN MYERS



Copyright © 2004 by Prestwick House, Inc., P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938. 1-800-932-4593. www.prestwickhouse.com Permission to use this unit for classroom use is extended to purchaser for his or her personal use. This material, in whole or part, may not be copied for resale.

Item No. 201421

ISBN-13 978-1-60389-225-4

Written by Amber Reed

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading**Creative Design****Objective:** Designing a Vietnam Veterans Memorial**Activity**

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., was created to acknowledge the service and sacrifice of all the men and women who served in Vietnam. Also referred to as “the Wall,” the memorial was designed by Maya Ying Lin, an undergraduate student at Yale University, whose design was chosen in a nationwide contest in 1981. Maya Ying Lin’s intention was to create a park within Constitution Gardens, which her design accomplishes by isolating the memorial from the surrounding city. The glossy black granite walls that reflect the trees, monuments, and visitors, contain the names of those soldiers killed or missing in action. Currently, 58,245 names are listed.

Design a Vietnam Veterans Memorial by using the following guidelines. The design may be hand drawn, computer generated, or both. If you are not artistically inclined, write a thorough, one-page description of your design, and include the impression and mood that your memorial is meant to instill.

The design must adhere to these guidelines:

- Be thoughtful in nature.
- Blend with the surroundings.
- Contain the names of those who are missing or killed in action.
- Express no political statement about war.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter I

Drama

Objective: Writing and performing a screenplay

Activity

Perry and Judy become friends during their trip to Vietnam, then part ways at the Tan Son Nhut airport. After waving goodbye to Judy, Perry is teased by some men for not kissing her “like they do in the war movies.”

Your group will write a screenplay for the scene in which Perry and Judy say goodbye at the airport, but in a different manner than what is in the novel. First, select a genre for the screenplay, such as comedy, romance, or drama. Write a two-to-four-page movie script complete with stage directions and necessary props. Do not limit the script to only Perry and Judy; include enough characters so that everyone in the group has a role. The additional characters can be airport employees, soldiers, or travelers—be creative.

Once you have been assigned a character, practice the scene together, and remember to incorporate the props, including any costumes. When the group is ready, perform the play for the class.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter IV

Characterization

Objective: Interpreting the thoughts and feelings of a character

Activity

The following excerpt occurs after Perry witnesses Jenkins' death:

I wrote Mama a letter all about how Jenkins had got killed. Then I tore it up and decided not to tell her about it. It would only get her upset. Instead, I told her more about Peewee. I didn't want to tell her about Jenkins for another reason, too. I didn't know how I felt about it. In a way I was really sorry for Jenkins, but there was a small voice inside me that kept saying that I was glad that it wasn't me that was killed. I didn't want anybody to see me putting that in a letter.

Rewrite the letter that Perry originally writes to his mother. In the letter, express how Perry feels about what he witnesses and why it is difficult for him to discuss. Also, explain what Perry means when he says, "I was glad that it wasn't me that was killed. I didn't want anybody to see me putting that in a letter." Try to clarify what you believe Perry is feeling. Is he more relieved to be alive, or is he ashamed to feel that way? Why can't he discuss his thoughts with his mother or Peewee?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter VI

Characterization and Inference

Objective: Drawing a conclusion about a character's thoughts

Activity

A television crew arrives to film a war documentary. The men are questioned as to their opinion on the United States' involvement in Vietnam:

Lieutenant Carroll said that we had to demonstrate that America stood for something, and that's what we were doing.

Sergeant Simpson said that we were trying to free the South Vietnamese people to do what they wanted to do.

Brunner said he was fighting because he hated Communism.

Walowick said that he was fighting because his country asked him to. I liked that.

Lobel said something about the domino theory, how if Vietnam fell to the Communists then the rest of Asia might fall.

Brew said the same thing about the domino theory. I think he was just repeating what he had heard Lobel say.

I said that we either defended our country abroad, or we would be forced to fight in the streets of America, which everybody seemed to like.

Then the news team got to Peewee and asked him why he was fighting in Vietnam.

'Vietnam?' Peewee looked around like he was shocked or something. 'I must have got off on the wrong stop, I thought this was St. Louis!'

Choose four characters from the passage above and, based on each man's response, create a quote that he might say about war in general. One example is given.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter IX

Reading Comprehension and Culture

Objective: Extracting and comparing cultural information

Activity

During a pacification mission, Perry has the opportunity to observe South Vietnamese culture, as well as the people's behavior towards Americans. Upon returning to camp, a letter from Kenny causes Perry to think about his home. Ironically, his home life bears similarities to what he witnesses among the Vietnamese.

The following two charts relate to Vietnamese culture as described in chapter nine and in relation to Perry's home life in New York. Complete the **South Vietnamese Culture Chart** by supplying two quotes that portray Vietnamese culture, such as food or shelter, and two quotes that describe the villagers' demeanor or appearance. On the **Lifestyle Comparison Chart**, list comparable quotes that reveal similarities between the lifestyles of Perry and the Vietnamese people and explain how the quotes portray similarities. Use Perry's recollections of home to search for comparable quotes about his life.

One example is provided for each chart.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XI

Creative Design

Objective: Designing a pacification flyer

Activity

The soldiers must escort a group of civilians who are on a pacification mission to appease the Vietnamese people and gain their loyalty in the war. The men in Perry's unit have also gone on pacification missions with the purpose of educating the Vietnamese people about the evils of Communism.

As a group, create a flier to distribute among the villagers during a pacification mission. Design the flier so that it promotes the benefits of democracy and the detriments of communism. Be sure to include pro-American statements as recruiting measures. Use the library, Internet, or both to gather information for the flier, and add graphics to enhance its creativity. If no one in the group is artistically inclined, use the computer to acquire or to design pictures.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XV

Point of View

Objective: Using another character's point of view to rewrite a passage

Activity

The point of view in *Fallen Angels* is first person with Perry as the narrator. Through Perry's eyes, the reader sees how the war in Vietnam affects the lives of soldiers and the Vietnamese people alike. Perry's perspective adds distinctiveness to the novel by giving insight into his thoughts and background; the result is a deeper understanding of his reactions and behavior.

Through Perry's observations, the reader also becomes familiar with other characters. The first person point of view limits knowledge of these characters, but their statements and behavior make conjectures possible.

Re-read pages 192 – 197, which describe the squad's first night patrol from the new base. Choose a character other than Perry and rewrite the passage from that character's perspective. Your rewrite should be approximately one page long.

Use what you know about the character to write the passage; consider his background, attitude, and behavior to decide what he is thinking and how he will act. Be sure to incorporate the character's attitude and dialect into your writing. Remember, he is the narrator, not you.

An example of Lieutenant Gearhart's perspective is provided.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XVIII**Critical Reading****Objective:** Analyzing text and logging information**Activity**

Chapter Eighteen is a lengthy account of a large battle between the Americans, ARVNs, and North Vietnamese. Throughout the chapter, Perry randomly mentions the time, which divides the battle into smaller segments.

After thoroughly reading the chapter, complete the **Event Chronology Chart** by filling in the missing information.

The first column of the chart requires the times that Perry gives. After you locate each time, finish the rest of the row by supplying the required information. In the second column, calculate how much time has passed since the last reported time. In the last column, record the major events that have occurred during that time segment.

Once the chart is complete, consider why Walter Dean Myers bothers to clock the battle. Write a paragraph summarizing the author's intention in including the times. Is he, for example, trying to relate that a lot has occurred in a short amount of time? Is he perhaps trying to create a sense of reality amidst a surreal event? What is his purpose?

The chart is begun for you.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters XVI – XX**Theme****Objective:** Identifying themes**Activity**

Fallen Angels contains several themes, some of which are more prominent than others. One major theme pertains to coming-of-age, meaning that a character matures or comes to understand life as an adult. As seen in the novel, the harsh realities of war have the power to change people. Perry, for instance, struggles to cope with the horrors he sees daily, and tries to make peace with himself by attempting to justify his actions. Perry's maturity develops as his innocence and naivety fade. As a result, Perry becomes a different person from when he first arrived in Vietnam.

In the spaces provided, each group must supply ten quotes from chapters sixteen through twenty that support the coming-of-age theme. Some quotes may be more obvious than others; look for the inferred message in the text. There are more than ten quotes to choose from.

Coming-of-age Examples:

1. "I cried for Brew. Sometimes, even when I wasn't thinking about him, or at least when I didn't know I was thinking of him, I would find myself crying. And when the tears came, I thought about Brew and the sound the zipper made in the chopper."
2. "Jamal was shaking, tears were running down his face. He was ugly. God, a man could be ugly when he cried. Peewee punched him in the face and started pulling him up. I got his other arm and started pulling him."