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Fallen Angels
BY WALTER DEAN MYERS



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All references come from the Scholastic Edition of *Fallen Angels*, copyright 1988.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading

Research and Historical Figures

Objective: Researching the historical figures involved in the Vietnam War

Activity

The Vietnam War involved various leaders and prominent people in North Vietnam, South Vietnam, and the United States. Using the library, the Internet, or both, research the names that appear in the chart. Match the names to their respective descriptions.

- ___ 1. Pham Van Dong
- ___ 2. Duong Van Minh
- ___ 3. Gerald Ford
- ___ 4. Richard Nixon
- ___ 5. Ho Chi Minh
- ___ 6. Nguyen Van Thieu
- ___ 7. Lt. William Calley
- ___ 8. Ngo Dinh Diem
- ___ 9. Ellsworth Bunker
- ___ 10. Le Duan

- A. Founded Indochinese Communist Party; led Republic of Vietnam (1945 – 1969)
- B. U.S. President; expanded war into Laos and Cambodia; carried out policy of “Vietnamization”
- C. Led reunified Vietnam until 1986
- D. Convicted for role in My Lai massacre
- E. Formed underground communist organization in South Vietnam; assumed leadership of North Vietnam in 1969
- F. U.S. Ambassador to South Vietnam (1967 – 1973)
- G. Leader of South Vietnam briefly in 1963; surrendered nation to Communists in 1975
- H. Led South Vietnam (1954 – 1963); killed by his generals in a coup
- I. U.S. President; oversaw final withdrawal from Vietnam
- J. President of South Vietnam (1967 – 1975)

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter II

Critical Reading

Objective: Comprehending dialogue

Activity

During his first breakfast with the Twenty-second Replacement Company, Perry comments on the amount of African Americans present when he says, "There were a lot of black guys. I didn't think there would be so many." His comment touches upon an issue that was sensitive to the American public during the Vietnam War.

As the war progressed, several public figures became more vocal in their protest against the United States' involvement. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., for example, spoke to a group of clergymen about the repercussions of Vietnam on the African American community.

The following page contains an excerpt from Rev. King's speech "Beyond Vietnam." Read the passage and answer the questions that follow by checking each statement as either true or false.

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 VIII

Military Report

Objective: Creating a military report to account for the day's events

Activity

Perry misses a patrol when he is sick, so Lieutenant Carroll selects him to go on patrol with Charlie Company. What is supposed to be a fairly quick and easy patrol quickly turns into a nightmare as the men in the fourth platoon accidentally open fire on the first platoon. The situation ends with massive destruction and numerous deaths.

Imagine that you are responsible for completing the military report on the occurrence. Use information in the book to complete the form. When you have filled in the requested information, write a brief summation of what occurred in the field. The summary should be written in an objective manner, as you are responsible for accurately stating the events as they occurred.

The report has been started for you.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XII

Communicating and Speech Writing

Objective: Debating President Carter's pardon to draft evaders

Activity

Brunner and Monaco discuss draft dodgers who burn their draft cards and flee the country to avoid going to war. Brunner believes that these people are cowards and that they are contributing to more American deaths in Vietnam because the squads are undermanned. Monaco, however, feels that people must do what they feel is right, even if it is illegal.

In 1976, President Jimmy Carter extended a full pardon to nearly 10,000 men who had evaded the Vietnam War draft. His action was intended to create calm and unity among Americans, but it managed to produce unrest because of its controversial nature.

Consider both sides of the debate and decide whether you support or oppose President Carter's decision to pardon draft dodgers. Write a persuasive speech, no longer than two pages long, in which you try to convince the audience of your viewpoint.

Begin your speech by describing the problem and presenting a solution. Clearly state the reasons why you feel that your perspective is correct. Demonstrate sound reasoning by supporting your argument with facts. Also, argue any popular opposing viewpoints. A well-written, persuasive speech not only supports the speaker's view, but also appeals to the interests and desires of the audience.

The speeches will be presented to the class when they are complete.