

unique story choice

94/100

Part one

"I knew I wasn't supposed to feel admiration. I should be fearful of these people and feel hatred for them. I did have fear-I could feel it in my stomach-but also that surprising admiration." (Appy, 2003) For Nguyen Qui Duc TET was a very important day. Not only for its historical significance within his country but also because the events of that day would forever change him.

Nguyen Qui Duc was just ten years old when the Tet Offensive took place. He and his family were ambushed in their home. The above quote from Appy's interview of Nguyen gave insight to how he was struggling inwardly to understand where he stood in his beliefs. He wanted to do and believe as he was told, "As scared as I was, I had the impression he was a very persuasive and eloquent man. I don't remember his words, but there was passion in his speech and I was moved by way he talked about the nation." (Appy, 2003) He could help feel the passion in the man's speech and it touched his heart.

Nguyen soon watched his family be torn apart by the same men he began to admire. He watched his father be taken away and imprisoned for twelve years (1968-1980). He saw symbols of his culture, like the bridge over the Perfume River, be destroyed. His comment on that very event seemed to show how his young mind was struggling to understand what was going on around him, "You expect war to have its casualties and for people to be killed, but even then I thought that if you go so far as to blow up that bridge, a bridge that had so much significance for so many Vietnamese, then you no longer have respect for history and culture. You no longer have respect for the nation." (Appy, 2003) By now Nguyen had watched his home destroyed, his family destroyed and now his culture and history as well. His head was spinning and he was trying to process the turn of events as he was ripped from it all. He lived the next 7 years in a refugee camp with his mother before coming to America with his uncle in 1975. He describes this time as a struggle (A time of little understanding for the war and why it was really being fought, and who's side was he to choose?) This time was a turning point for him. It was when he started to realize he was leading what he called "a double life", a life where he was sympathetic towards the South Vietnamese, and yet friendly towards Western culture.

Once in America he began to assimilate quickly. He watched his actions change and become more Americanized. He began to wear similar clothes and listen to the same music as his peers. He began to change. He began to see the war and America thru different eyes. He once thought that America was a great nation, one that produced peaceful people who loved music and culture. And now he was seeing them fight in a senseless war, and hurt innocent people.

It was very clear that Nguyen was torn between his two countries. I struggle to find how this was a direct turning point in the war, instead I see it as a turning point within a man's heart. As he points out in his closing statement he has no hatred towards either side. Instead he has a deep understanding for why people made the decisions they did. He understands that there is a price for war. And yet he makes a choice to not harbor hate, instead use his experiences to enrich the lives of others like him.

Careful here:
mostly narrative
little analysis

well explained
good job

ns
awk

PT

Today Nguyen hosts a radio show called "Pacific Time," the only nationally distributed radio show about Asia and Asian Americans. The show reaches 165,000 each week on 20 stations nationwide and in Hong Kong. He believes he is not the only displaced Asian who found his/her life changed by the war. He considers them as well as himself, modern day nomads traveling around looking for themselves, instead of just a place to call home. (Vanessa Hua, 2006)

Part two Endings

is this still a turning point...
or is the theme now "lost
between 2 worlds"

Perhaps the most definitive story in this section was that of Judith Coburn^s. She was an American journalist whose father was close friends with Clark Clifford, Secretary of defense in 1968. During her interview by Appy she recounts how her father hosted a Thanksgiving dinner that included Clifford and Stuart Symington. Symington was the senator of Missouri. Judith recalls a moment after dinner where Symington was asked to talk about his time in Vietnam. She over hears him comment "Well you know, it's the usual dog-and-pony show." (Appy, 2003) He goes on to explain that one of the Colonel's he met while in Danang was concerned that one day he'd lead his men into battle and he'd turn around to find them gone. Little did anyone know how true a statement that was. Judith learned how true when she herself traveled to Vietnam in 1970. PT

Judith's job took her to many bases while she was in Vietnam. She would recall seeing and hearing about dozens of men who were against the war. These men were deliberately refusing to follow orders or "sandbagging" missions. She saw dozens of men attempt an antiwar demonstration on July Fourth. During a USO event Judith interviewed many men who were against the war and felt Americans should withdraw. Everywhere she went and looked there were signs of the soldiers refusing to fight and die for a cause they no longer believed in.

She remembers utter chaos. There were Black Panther compounds, prostitution rings disguised as entertainment for the troops, drugs everywhere, corruption at every level, from every side. In her own way she was witnessing an end of war and the beginning of change. Little did she know it at the time but the Vietnam War had been lost. Lost by the American^s and Vietnamese alike. Both sides had suffered great casualties and their own people were turning against them. "Of course there were other missions where people were greatly heroic, but it was pretty obviously that the military was gradually losing control of its own men." (Appy, 2003)

Judith Coburn had witnessed a beginning of an end. She saw both sides give up and both trade sides. It was clear that for many of our soldiers the war had ended when they laid down their weapons and walked away.

Works Cited

Vanessa Hua, C. S. (2006, August 15). *SFGate*. Retrieved 11 22, 2013, from SFGate: <http://www.sfgate.com/entertainment/article/Good-morning-Vietnam-decades-after-he-fled-a-2513841.php>

proofread carefully
Much better paper than your first...
well done