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Assignment #2

Families at war

John Douglas Marshall

"You will not be welcome here again" (pg. 328 Patriots) is what S.L.A. Marshall (SLAM) told his grandson John Marshall in the Patriots book. John Marshall went into the ROTC following what his family "expected" him to do. Having a grandfather that was a brigadier general, was something to be proud of, a true role model for any child, he was like a real super hero that was seen on television, in newspaper articles, and even wrote his own books. One would say keeping a military family happy is the best way to not become an enemy. I only know this by personal experience coming from a long line of soldiers, national guards, and naval officers. SLAM gave the commissioning speech for his grandson John's ROTC graduation, but SLAM did not allow his grandson to salute him. Instead he gave him a huge bear hug in front of the entire audience. I believe that the hug for SLAM shows how proud he of his grandson. It represented the pride and joy he felt, because his grandson John was following in the family footsteps by becoming a member of the military. What SLAM didn't know is that his beloved grandson was hiding a secret that would cause a major turning point in their relationship; and this moment of compassion would be the last that they would spend together. After a year of service, John's antiwar feelings increased immensely while anticipating the call to be sent to Vietnam. So John "immersed himself in the literature of pacifism and nonviolence ---Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Thoreau." (pg. 328 Patriots). His feeling towards war made him come to the decision that would turn his family against him "I can no longer deny the calling of my conscience. . . regardless of my family heritage . . . I can no longer hide my true beliefs beneath my uniform." (pg. 328 Patriots) He withdrew from the army and was granted an honorable discharge. After John's letter for discharge was approved he wrote letters to both his family and his grandfather explaining his decision. John did not hear from his father for more than a year, but he received a letter from his grandfather. In the letter it started by addressing John as "Dear Mr. Marshall," and he knew at that moment the repercussions of his withdrawal from the army had started. SLAM's letter continued with "That the Army seemingly prefers to give you an honorable separation means nothing to this part of what was once your family. . . We know why you quit. It wasn't conscience. You simply chickened out. You didn't have the guts it takes. No male among us has ever been like that and the women, too, thank heaven, are stronger. That means you don't belong. You will not be welcome here again and you are herewith constrained not to use our name as family in any connection." (pg. 329 Patriots) Unfortunately, John's decision had a repercussion that made his grandfather disown him. I would think that SLAM felt a great betrayal and disappointment from the decision that his grandson had made not only to the family but to the nation. I have found by personal experiences with my aunt who is a retired Sergeant and her husband my uncle a Lieutenant Colonel of the National Guard that they are lacking in communication skills and don't really know how to interact with civilians as they would call us. Although just these few examples does not mean that all service members are lacking when it

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long
quotes

Part 1
all narrative

comes to communication, maybe they just have a harder time sharing feelings since their job has trained them to become more cut and dry to follow out orders. Sadly, John never saw his grandfather again; he didn't even attend his grandfather's funeral, because he figured he wasn't welcome to go. Years after SLAM died, John the grandson that was once rejected by his grandfather tried to reconcile his relationship by investigating accusation that were being written about SLAM. John traveled a total of twelve thousand miles around the country to find the truth and history about his grandfather. After doing this he was able to forgive his grandfather and actually named his daughter Samantha in his honor.

with little analysis of the "turning point" theme. Your theme
Nguyen Ngoc Bich seemed to be
"broken relationships"
Trying to end protesting

Nguyen Ngoc Bich was the ninth child born out of ten in Vietnam. Bich attended college at Princeton, Columbia and Kyoto University of Japan. Bich studied Asian history and literature, and worked as the director of information at the South Vietnamese embassy in Washington D.C. Bich went around from city to city giving speeches at different universities where he would give information on the war and answer questions from the public. His mission was that of ending the misinformation that was being fed to the American public about what was happening in Vietnam. Some of his speeches were rudely interrupted by anti-war protesters. During a speech at Purdue University the protesters would interrupt Bich's speech; every time he tried to say something they would chant "HO HO HO CHI MINH, THE NLF IS GOING TO WIN." There was only one remedy for this and Bich actually did it on stage in response to the protesters. He lay down on top of a table and acted like he was sleeping. Well the protesters didn't know what to do and some other crowd members started to chant "LET HIM TALK, LET HIM TALK". The protesters in response started to Chant "TALK, TALK, TALK"; but Bich remained in the position of his false slumber. Not knowing what to do with this sleeping guest speaker they left, which allowed Bich to continue on with his speech and answer questions from the public. The questions were at sometimes mind bogglingly gullible that people would believe the information that they were reading. For instance, just because you read an article from The New York Times doesn't mean that it is completely true. The war that Bich was trying to end here in the United States was that of misinformed Americans and anti-war protesters.

Part 2 - too brief, and I'm very confused &
lost as to how this story represented an "ending"

Proofread your work.

to the war.
How he dealt w/
protesters at his speeches
seemed to be the
point, which is not
the theme for Part 2.