

80/100

PART ONE

John Douglas Marshall grew up in a military family. His grandfather was S.L.A Marshall, a well-known army general who wrote war books, and spoke in favor of the Vietnam War. As a kid John saw his grandfather as someone to look up to, and someone to emulate. John stated that, "Growing up, I thought more about making my grandfather proud than my own father" (Appy, 328). John went into the ROTC program in 1969 because it was expected of him. His path had been established generations ago, and he didn't want to let down his family, especially his grandfather.

John described his grandfather as, "the life-loving, cigar-smoking grandfather who lived a few miles away." (Appy, 328) The closeness that John and his grandfather once shared is best highlighted when John graduated the ROTC. John describes saluting his grandfather and says, "he said, 'Don't you dare salute me.' Then he grabbed me and gave me a big bear hug in front of this crowd" (Appy, 329).

John's personal turning point came during his first year of service. In that time "His doubts about the war escalated" and "he immersed himself in the literature of pacifism and nonviolence" (Appy, 328). John decided that the war was something that he could no longer support and he didn't want to be a part of it. He was turning against everything that he had grown up with: the military, his family's way of life, and their expectations. He knew that becoming a conscientious objector would cause backlash, but he decided that he had to do what he thought was right. He had to follow his own path.

John's conscientious objection prompted his grandfather to write him a letter saying things like, "It wasn't conscience. You simply chickened out," and "You will not be welcome here again" (Appy, 329). Leaving the military wasn't something that S.L.A Marshall expected from his family, and he wanted his grandson to know that he wasn't living up to the family name, and therefore he was cutting off all ties.

John knew that his choice would hurt his grandfather, and his family, but it was a choice he was making for himself, not for other people. There's an Irish proverb that says, "You've got to do your own growing, no matter how tall your grandfather was." In relation to the proverb, John's grandfather was very tall, but John needed to grow on his own. He had to make a decision that fit best for him. It's unfortunate that John's personal turn caused the end of his relationship with his grandfather. John summed it up best by calling it, "another casualty of the Vietnam War" (Appy, 329).

lacking analysis, but especially the "turning point" theme connection

PART TWO

As a young boy George Evans spent his time with his father and other World War II veterans. He spent his days working with his dad, and hanging out at the VFW. He says "I was raised in a family and a neighborhood of extreme patriots" (Appy, 449). His earliest memories were of decorating veterans' graves on Flag Day. George saw the sadness that some of the veterans carried with them, and even though they didn't talk about it, he felt it was there. Since patriotism and military service was such a big presence in his life he

knew that he would end up in the military one day.

As he got older his father got more controlling and George pulled away. He started to lead his own life. He said, "I had this other life in the streets," (Appy, 450) thus illustrating that his childhood had ended and he was beginning his own life. In 1969 he decided that he really wanted to go to Vietnam. His best friend warned him against going, but he volunteered anyway. George said, "I liked being a medic and didn't hesitate" (Appy, 451).

When he first arrived, George was determined to do the best job he could possibly do. He looked forward to opportunities, and learning experiences. He quickly worked his way up to "staff sergeant and the crew chief of the night shift" (Appy, 451). He saw war as honorable, and he held the people that fought in wars to high moral standards. His time in Vietnam changed his ideals, and ended the long standing trust that he held with the military.

Upon his arrival he was instructed to clean up the bodies of two children. The NCO that told him to clean the bodies referred to the boys as "gooks" and didn't have much empathy towards the situation (Appy, 451). George talks about his reaction to the NCO and says, "He was completely different from the veterans I knew growing up, completely contrary to what I thought I knew about men in war and what I expected of them" (Appy, 452). George realized that not everyone has high moral standards. His good illusions of war, and soldiers had ended. He began to relate to the WWII veterans he knew growing up, and he began to understand their unspoken grief. ww

He decided that this wasn't something he could fully support, and that he would show that by not "looking like a soldier" and not caring in general about rules, and regulations (Appy, 452). His disregard got him in trouble with the new captain, and even the threat of a court-martial didn't matter. George said, "Something in my head said I was done with the military and sick of the war" (Appy, 453).

George Evans had a deep-rooted, and unquestionable respect for every aspect of the military. He saw all soldiers as honorable and having high morals. Going to Vietnam and meeting some of the people that he did, ended all of that.

PT
mistaken point here (

Both parts were a majority of narrative, rather than a focus on the two themes. Part 2, on "endings" included only this reference in the last sentence.

Your theme seemed to be the troubles between (grand) Fathers & sons.