

Due date: Sunday, 1 May 2011, 11:55 PM

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78/100

Theme problems. To me there is (after reading) ① US soldiers - bad memories ② Viet soldiers - good memories

weak

Throughout reading part three of the book, Patriots, the theme that stuck out to me was that the American soldiers went in with a sense that they were fighting for their country but came back with heavy hearts and regrets as well as the inability to show any emotion due to their pride. The Vietnamese soldiers however, seemed to believe they were fighting for something worthwhile and while it was heart wrenching to think back to their time spent battling and the good, honest, innocent people who were killed in the line of duty, it seems as though they understand the reason for the war and their minds don't seem to be altered no matter what tragedies took place. In plain terms, the Americans seem to be convincing themselves they were over there fighting for freedom while the Vietnamese don't need any convincing. They knew what they were fighting for and believed in their country and their people.

and the theme is ??? sounds like 2 ... 1 for Americans 1 for Vietnamese

The story of Jim Soular, Free-Fire Zone, was one of the stories that were a good example of my chosen theme. Jim was a patriot as he states in the beginning of his story. He had always believed in the flag and serving his country and was someone the military could definitely count on. He went to Vietnam willingly as a flight engineer and made his helicopter his ultimate priority. He remembered accounts of pilots who would lose confidence in their helicopters but he would always be there to tell them it would be okay and instill the confidence back into them to allow everyone to safely arrive at their destination. He always stood behind the decisions of his fellow soldiers as well as the military until his best friend David was shot by another GI, Harris, who decided to take his drunken rage to the next level and shot David in the face. David died right in front of Jim and from that point on Jim's thoughts of serving his country and doing the right thing was slightly altered. The military sentenced Harris to five years of hard labor because Harris admitted he had been drunk when he shot David however, for another GI that was unauthorized to fly helicopters but did so in an attempt to try to save the chopper and failed ended up getting a sentence of fifteen years. Jim could not get a grasp on the fact that a machine was worth more than a soldier serving his country. He expressed his deep sorrow for going into Vietnam and doing so much damage to a country that we could have learned from rather than going in and destroying so much of it over circumstances that were out of his control. He left me with a sense of regret and extreme sadness because deep down I know he

past tense

lots of narrative here

reading and ...