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Assignment Two

The vietnam war tore apart many lives that would have been filled with happiness otherwise. The theme is broken. The stories written by Sylvia Lutz Holland, James Thompson, and Vu thi Vinh best described this theme. The stories all described a tale of young men and woman who lost their lives, not necessarily their physical life, more like they lost what their lives could have been if not for the war. The war effected many lives as wars are prone to do, but if there had been no war these men an women would have grown up to be happy old men and women. They would hold no ever lasting scars, both pyshical and mental. In all three stories there are the same underlying theme of broken.

In Sylvia Lutz Holland's recount she talked about how she was a member of the army Nurse corps. The underlying theme of broken is resounding here. The author writes unfeeling about the terror that she witnessed like she were talking about the weather. This story only help the theme of broken lives because this woman would have been a nurse in an American hospital maybe even an old folks home and the worst she would have seen as a wound maybe would have been a car crash. Nothing like the resounding terror of a person blown apart by a land mine. There would have been no need to throw a baby in the trash or to be spat upon. She will carry the scars of those sights for the rest of her life.

The second story that rsounds this theme was the James Thompson recount. James Thompson was most likely responsible for many mnay deaths. A young politician asked to sign a piece of paper. Ending the lives of many without ever realizing it. Nothing could break a man more than if he were to unwittingly kill hundreds of people. If there had been no war than he would have meerly been a politician, signing papers only to unwittingly cut and/or raise taxes. Never having to think of who the men were that he signed off their deaths.

The third story that embodies this theme probably the most is the Vu thi Vinh tale. At age fifteen she signs up to be a volunteer in the war lieing about her age. Her patriotism bringing her the greatest pain. She starved and worked and tried her hardest to help when

she should have been chasing after boys and going to school. Her life could have been filled with all of the conflicting emotions of a teenager instead of how to set off an undetained bomb without destroying too much of their bridge. If there ever was a more broken life than this. Her life was broken from their on out.

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