

Assignment 1

Part 1

74/100

There were many stories in part one of the Appy book that caught my attention. Some in different ways than others. The one that had the greatest impact on me was that of Phan Xuan Sinh. It would be such a heart wrenching experience to be in a war in general. Always needing to be on your toes, Not knowing when you could be attacked or shot at. So when Phan told his story about ambushing near the beach south of Danang it really caught my attention. Just imagining being there at one or two in the morning hardly being able to see really opened my eyes. The fact that they started firing before they could really even see who or what they were firing at. How the boats got closer and saw what they thought looked like "many rifles silhouetted against the sky" and a full boat load of Viet Cong. I couldn't imagine the feeling of what it would have been like to open fire on the boats only to realize there wasn't any return fire coming back to them. Then to find out they had accidentally opened fire on a large group of fisherman would be heartbreaking. It really made me think about how in warfare it's better to be safe than sorry. The fact that you never know who it really could be coming at you in the boat. After this experience it seems you could think twice in this situation if it happened again. If you do that and it really is soldiers next time then you open yourself up to getting hurt next time. It's just an experience that is hard to imagine without seeing it first hand. I tend to think this speaker is a reliable source from the way the story was told. He seemed to remember many exact details. Like the things they thought were guns turned out to be fishing poles. You never know exactly what happened when you get a single persons point of view, after all they are speaking on what they saw through their eyes. They couldn't have possibly seen everything. Yet, I feel that Phan had a good feeling of what happened that night and did a great job of re telling this to us as the audience.

Part 2

In regards to a story I found disappointing, There really hasn't been one that I would have to call disappointing. I have enjoyed getting to read these and really see from first person accounts what it may have been like to be a part of this conflict. If there was one that wasn't my favorite it would be the story of Henry Prunier about the "Deer Team". It was something that just seemed like a little extra information. I was kind of disappointed in the way he thought the Vietnamese were viewed as a whole by us. As being "ragtag". It made me think that we had severely underestimated the strength of the Vietnamese. That we thought they were a ragtag people and could easily be walked over without a fight. He told us that they were actually a very smart group of people. Considering the fact he said many of them could put together an M1 from pieces blindfolded after only doing it once. So like I said, I wasn't disappointed with the story. More disappointed in the way we were at the start of this conflict. The point of view and underestimation of a Nation. I feel if we had given them more credit originally that the war may have been a different story.

It can be a hard thing to find a positive aspect of such a terrible, bloody war. It was hard for me to pick one of the individual stories that we have read so far and try to make it into something "good". As many of these stories are presented in a negative light, or at least have negative influences on us. I think part of it in the back of my mind, As an American, it's just hard to find something positive out of the Vietnam conflict. The one thing that I keep coming back to in regards to positivity has come out of more than one of the stories, And is something that is a part of all wars. The idea of brotherhood, We see this a lot. The fact that these guys were in such a horrible thing, together experiencing it at the same time. The relationships that are built through an experience like this are never going to go away. To know that you weren't the only one who had to deal with this. That is how I find positivity in such a horrible event. So many times have the storytellers mentioned their friends they made while fighting. It's almost that the lucky ones to make it back became somewhat of an extended family. Sharing that experience seems to be a form of release for them. I find this to be the best way to find and make some "good" come out of this. The relationships that will last a lifetime

PICK ONE!

and will never be forgotten. — cliché

* the credibility section of your paper was too brief AND contradictory.

You spent much of the first part empathizing with Phan, what it would have been like "for you." Not what I asked.

Many grammar mistakes & redundancies hurt the readability of your paper. (~~spelling~~ and capitalization errors throughout.)

Part 2
Following the directions.
Pick one story. You decide
to make a generalized comment
about all of them.