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Pain and suffering.

Reading this section of the book the thing that sticks out the most to me is the violence, and I don't just mean the violence that comes with war. I mean the violence that makes you wonder if you are going to hell for this. There was so much torture going on in this war. In the prisoners of war section we hear stories about how it was to be a prisoner of war. The story that stuck out the most was Truong My Hoa, I guess because I am a women and it was easier for me to associate with. I just can't imagine what it was like to be locked in a small tiger cage and be tortured. The line that really sticks out to me is when she talks about hoe the women would tear their cloths of to make pads for their cycles. These stories show how strong these people were on the inside, and how strong the believed in what they were fighting for. There was so much pain with this war during and after. The pain of the soldiers and the pain of their families are so horrible. In the part of the book on page 162 titled "Triage" we read about David M. Smith (on page 167) who worked in triage and how he would separate out the casualties to determine what needed to be done. I can only imagine being in a room and having to look at all these injured humans and try to decide who was to be seen and who would die. In this book it talks about the antiwar and how people here in the United States were against the war. One man, Tom Engelhardt talks about how this war swallowed everyone up. Everyone was swept up in confusion on how they felt. He found himself defending the Americans decision to the Gulf of Tonkin incident, to the French kids. Then he felt anger because the war was taking so long. There was so much anger and pain associated with this war. There many Americans and Vietnamese that were tortured, many separated from their families. On the American home front there were many who protested the war because so many men were drafted who did not want to fight. This war went on so long that many began to wonder why we were there. There were also so many different stories told and so many different versions of the same situation it is so hard to know what really happened. There were was such prolonged pain there were so many POW's that were there for many years not just days, or months but many many years. It is so sad, I know that war is not a happy thing, but being someone who has never been close to war, I just can't imagine what it must of been like or what it is like for those right now fighting a war for another country again.

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