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*Fallen Angels*

“Making Meanings: Section 1, New to War”

**Directions:** Answer the following questions after reading Chapters 1-5 of *Fallen Angels*

**First Thoughts**

Reading Check

1. In your opinion, does Perry make the right choice when he says with the squad? Why?

1. Who is Richie Perry?

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2. Why did Perry enlist in the army?

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3. Lieutenant Carroll calls Jenkins an “angel warrior.” Why? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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4. What is the squad’s reason for going to An Linh’s village?

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5. What does Perry tell Lieutenant Carroll about his knee?

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**Shaping Interpretations**

2. A **flashback** is a scene that interrupts the narration and shows something that happened at an earlier time. As Perry narrates *Fallen Angels* using the **first-person point of view**, he often interrupts the action to tell the reader about his family back in Harlem. What do these flashbacks reveal about him and his relationship to his family?

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3. Explain how Perry came to be in Vietnam despite his bad knee.

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4. How does Peewee respond when a soldier who is physically larger insults him? What do his actions reveal about his character?

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5. **Situational irony** is a discrepancy between what is expected and what happens. Jenkins says that his father has a “game plan” for his army career. How does this contribute to the **irony**  of Jenkins’s death?

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6. Why do the members of the squad stop talking about Jenkins after his death?

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7. In **direct characterization** the reader is told what a character is like. **Indirect characterization** gives the readers subtle clues as to the personality of a character. How does Myers use the character Perry to characterize Lieutenant Carroll, both directly and indirectly? (Use textual support if necessary).

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8. When Lieutenant Carroll offers Perry a way out of combat, Perry does not take it. How is his decision **ironic?**

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**Connecting with the Text**

9. ***Sometimes, when I was tired and the competition was really rough, things would change for me. There would be a flow of action around me and it would seem as if I were outside of myself, watching myself play ball, watching myself trying to establish a place for myself…***

Have there been moments in your life when you felt “outside of yourself” and not in control? Describe such an experience using the first-person point of view.

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**Extending the Text**

10. U.S. armed forces were sent to Vietnam to prevent an invasion of South Vietnam by North Vietnamese Communists. In what ways does the United States intervene in the political struggles of other nations today?

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**Compare & Contrast**

We experience Vietnam through Perry’s eyes, and we learn about Perry’s life in Harlem before the war through his thoughts of his family and through **flashbacks**. Perry often mentions how his life in Vietnam is different from his life at home in Harlem. In doing so, he is **comparing** and **contrasting** his experiences of the two environments and inviting us to do the same.

***Show the similarities and differences between Perry’s life at home and his life in Vietnam.***

* ***In the Big Apple, a nickname for the city of New York, list facts that Perry gives about his life in Harlem***
* ***In the military I.D. tags, write down the items and events that characterize Perry’s life in Vietnam.***
* ***In the space where the figures overlap, list the things that are similar in both places.***