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*Fallen Angels*

“Making Meanings: Section 5, Song Nha Ngu River”

**Directions:** Answer the following questions after reading Chapters 19-23 of *Fallen Angels*

Reading Check

**First Thoughts**

1. What do the American soldiers forget to do before burning the bodies of their fallen comrades?

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2. How does Johnson react when Stewart points a gun at Peewee?

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3. At the landing zone, why does Gearhart instruct the squad to throw their hands in the air? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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4. When they are separated from their squad, how do Perry and Peewee survive the night?

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5. What action do Perry and Peewee take at the landing zone?

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6. What important document arrive in Chu Lai on March 8?

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1. *Fallen Angels* ends when Perry leaves Vietnam. In your judgment, does Perry’s departure conclude the novel in a satisfying way? Why or why not?

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**Shaping Interpretations**

2. Twice in this section, Johnson resists Captain Stewart’s authority. What factors influenced his decisions?

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3. What clues does the author provide in this section to show how the members of the squad are psychologically wounded by the war?

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4. How does Perry finally explain the war to Kenny?

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5. What finally causes Lobel’s defense mechanism – believing that he is playing a role in a movie – to fail?

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6. What comparison does Perry make to describe his feelings for the men in his squad?

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7. Judy Duncan dies even though she was not in combat. How does Perry respond to her death? How is her death **ironic?**

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**Connecting with the Text**

8. When Perry and Peewee are hiding from the Viet Cong, they start giggling even though they are terrified. Have you ever responded to an extremely stressful situation with an emotion that surprised you and seemed inappropriate? What did it feel like?

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**Extenting the Text**

9. List some other poems, stories, or novels that show how soldiers adjust to “the World” after coming home. Do the soldiers in these depictions make a smooth transition back into society, or do they face certain problems? If the latter is true, what efforts do the people in these soldiers’ lives make to help them deal with their problems?

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**Challenging the Text**

10. On the plane home, Perry envisions himself on patrol back in Vietnam. All the squad members who are still living walk in front of him, and the ones who are dead walk behind him. How did you interpret this image? Does it seem like an appropriate conclusion for the novel? Explain your answer.

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**Cause and Effect**

A **cause** makes something happen. An **effect** is what happens as a result of that cause. Much of what happens to the squad seems random, but these events are actually linked in cause-and-effect relationships.

***The chart below shows the relationship between causes and effects in the last section of Fallen Angels. Complete the chart by filling in the blank causes and effects. The first one has been done for you.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Causes** | **Effects** |
| 1. *Captain Stewart aims his cunt at Peewee.* | Johnson fires at Captain Stewart’s feet. |
| 2. Gearhart and the squad put their hands in the air at the landing zone. | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 3.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Monaco shoots at the hooch because he thinks he sees two VC soldiers dragging an American soldier |
| 4. Lobel shoots a VC soldier and watches him die. | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Perry and Peewee spend the night in a spider hole. |
| 6. Perry and Peewee fire on the VC soldiers who are using Monaco as bait. | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Perry receives orders to go home. |