

Name: _____

Date: _____

Calvasina/Messmer/Ross

Block: _____

Close-Read Questions: "I Miss Iraq. I miss My Gun. I Miss My War."

Directions: After reading and annotating the article, complete the following questions.

Paragraph 1:

- 1.) Infer: Why would this man miss war?
- 2.) Vocabulary: What is an insurgent?
- 3.) Text to World Connection: Whose "propaganda campaigns" is the author referring to in paragraph 1?
- 4.) Connection: Have you ever seen a video like the one he writes about? If so, when/where? If not, would you ever watch one? Why/why not?
- 5.) Literary Elements: How is the following an example of paradox? "The images sickened me, but their familiarity pulled me in, giving comfort.."
- 6.) Infer: How or why would those videos give him "comfort"?
- 7.) Literary Elements: To what does the author compare his feelings?
- 8.) Infer: Why does his life feel "very foreign" even though he is back home in the USA?

Paragraph 2:

- 1.) Finding Details: How long had Mockenhaupt been home at the time of this writing?
- 2.) Infer: Who are “those,” “their,” and “they”?
- 3.) Infer: Why did the “relief” of his loved ones often bring him guilt?
- 4.) Author’s Craft: Re-read the following lines: “But I miss Iraq. I miss the war. I miss war.” What is the purpose of repetition here? What effect do you think this has on the reader?
- 5.) Finding Details: What does the author have a hard time understanding?

Paragraph 3:

- 1.) Text-to-Text Connections: Connect the following quote to the book we are reading. Write 2 sentences about how these thoughts relate to the characters in *The Things They Carried*. “I questioned my role in the occupation and whether good could come of it. I wondered if it was worth dying or killing for. The ugliness I saw disgusted me.”
- 2.) Infer: What does the author mean when he writes “war twists and shifts the landmarks by which we navigate our lives, casting light on darkened areas that for many people remain forever unexplored”?

3.) Author's Purpose" What is the purpose of the anecdote at the end of paragraph 3?

Paragraph 4:

- 1.) Literary Elements: The author writes about "taking in the world through a rifle scope, watching life unfold." Give an example of irony or paradox from this paragraph.

- 2.) Vocabulary: "That's not blood thirsty; that's just the trade you've learned." What does the word "trade" mean in the above sentence?

- 3.) Literary Elements: "As an American soldier, you have a very impressive toolbox." What is this a metaphor for? How do you know? Write the line or lines below:

- 4.) Literary Elements: What is the "terrible magic show" about which Mockenhaupt writes? How or why is this an ironic statement?

Paragraph 5:

- 1.) Literary Elements/Author's Craft: How does the author use imagery to begin this paragraph? What purpose does it serve?

- 2.) Infer: What is the "darkness"?

3.) Infer: Why would “being freed from society’s professed revulsion to killing” be a “lonely burden”?

4.) Literary Elements: Record one metaphor contained in this paragraph. Is it effective? Why/why not?

5.) Finding Details: What is the “open secret” about war?