

NONFICTION: "This Is a Face of War" • SKILL: Text Evidence, page 1 of 3

Sacrifice and Healing

Use this activity sheet with our nonfiction package "This Is a Face of War" to explore the sacrifices that soldiers make and what helps them heal.

Part I: "This Is a Face of War"

To *sacrifice* is to suffer a loss or give up something important for the sake of a cause or belief. As a soldier, Joey Paulk sacrificed for his country in many ways. Do the exercise below, using evidence from the text in your responses.

1. Describe how Joey changed physically as a result of the war.

2. How did these physical changes affect his daily activities?

3. How did Joey feel about himself and the world around him with respect to his physical changes? What details from the article tell you this? _____

4. Use your answers above to explain what Joey Paulk sacrificed.

After undergoing surgeries through Operation Mend, Joey started to heal. Use evidence from the text to describe his healing.

5. In what ways have the surgeries changed Joey's appearance?

6. How has Joey's outlook changed since he first returned home from the war? What examples show this?

7. What daily activities has Joey learned to do? What about his new outlook on life do you think has contributed to his ability to do these things? _____

Part II: "With Help From a Friend"

Retired Army Ranger Richard Ruffert also sacrificed for his country, and he has started to heal too. Use text evidence to answer the questions below about Ruffert's experiences.

8. What mental illness did Ruffert develop as a result of his service in Afghanistan? What are possible effects of this condition? _____

9. What detail shows how seriously Ruffert was affected? What did he sacrifice?

10. How has Ruffert's life changed since he got Millie?

Part III: Let Me Tell You Things

Rebecca Kai Dotlich's poem "Let Me Tell You Things" offers another portrait of a soldier who made sacrifices for his or her country. Answer the questions below to explore this sacrifice.

11. When the speaker says, "*That* moon haunted the skies," he or she is referring to the moon he or she saw while at war. What does this line suggest about the conditions a soldier has to endure at war?

12. How do you think the soldier in the poem has changed since coming home from war? Explain what in the poem makes you think this.

13. What do you think the soldier in the poem has sacrificed?
