

Name: _____

“Soldier’s Home” Questions

1. Are people in town interested in hearing about what the war was really like?
2. What kind of stories do they want to hear about the war and how does Krebs feel about telling them?
3. Is Harold comfortable being back home? What is one instance when he can relax and be himself?
4. Why is it only at this time that he feels at ease?
5. Krebs looks at the girls in town, but doesn’t speak to them. Why not? What does Krebs want to avoid in his life and why do you think he feels this way?
6. The story states: “He sat there on the porch reading a book on the war. It was a history and he was reading about all the engagements he had been in. It was the most interesting reading he had ever done.” Why do you think he enjoyed reading about a war he just got out of?
7. What did Harold’s mother mean when she said, “There can be no idle hands in His Kingdom.”?
8. What does Krebs’ mother want from him?

9. Why does Krebs seem to resent his mother? How could this be connected to his war experience?
10. When Harold's mother says, "I'm your mother...I held you next to my heart when you were a tiny baby." Harold responds, "I know, Mummy...I'll try and be a good boy for you." Why does he feel sick and vaguely nauseated?
11. Krebs' mother makes him pray with her. Why does he feel he is a liar by praying?
12. Krebs seems to come from a religious background. What influence could his war experience have had on his belief in God?
13. What is Hemingway trying to communicate about soldiers who have returned from war in this story?