

English 11 Summer Assignment

In Pharaoh's Army: Memories of a Lost War by Tobias Wolff (1994)

Part 1: Read and [annotate](#) Part One (through p. 128) of Tobias Wolff's memoir *In Pharaoh's Army: Memories of the Lost War*. I will check your annotations on the first day of school in August. **Warning: Race is a key theme in parts of this book. You should be prepared to encounter some offensive language and to treat the discussion of this issue with maturity and respect.**

Part 2: Respond to the following questions in paragraph form (4+ sentences each). Be sure to use quoted examples to support your thinking. You will submit this portion of the assignment in Google Classroom upon our return to school in August. DO NOT GOOGLE ANSWERS FOR THIS OR ANY ASSIGNMENT! Also, as with every assignment for this class, the use of A.I. programs like ChatGPT is strictly prohibited. Writing and grammar skills are a central focus of this course, so your work must be your own—including the construction of your own sentences and paragraphs.

1. Why does Wolff go from referring to the Vietnamese civilians as “people” to calling them “peasants?” What might this signify about the effect of his time serving in Vietnam?
2. Why does Wolff join the military?
3. Why is Wolff said to have “command presence?” What does he lose in order to gain this?
4. How does Wolff's experience as a white soldier in Vietnam force him to empathize with black people in America?