

Guiding Questions:

“Stop the Sun” and “Teaching Kids in Vietnam to Avoid a Deadly, Everyday Legacy of War”

Directions: Work through the guiding questions for each of the texts included in this week’s work. The purpose of these questions is to get you to think deeply about each text and help you prepare for the writing task in which you identify a theme that the two texts have in common. *The document is set to “view only.” If you would like to be able to type your responses into the document, you must click “File -- Make a Copy” and add it to your own Google Drive.*

“Stop the Sun” by Gary Paulsen

1. In your own words, what happens frequently to Terry’s father?
2. At the beginning of the text, Terry questions what happened to his father. He asks his mother, but refrains from talking with his father directly about it. Why do you think Terry makes this choice to not speak with his father?
3. How does Terry work to inform himself on the Vietnam War? Is he successful in uncovering why his father acts the way he does? Explain your analysis.
4. How does his father’s behavior make Terry feel? Give examples from the text.
5. How does Terry’s father react when Terry finally works up the courage to ask him about Vietnam? Why do you think he reacted in that way?
6. Terry’s father shares the events that happened in Vietnam. How does this impact Terry and change his relationship with his father?
7. After finishing the text, why do you think the author titled it “Stop the Sun”?
8. Based on the events that unfold in the story, how are American children, and generations of Americans generally, impacted by a war of which they were not a part? Is this fair or unfair? Explain.

“Teaching Kids in Vietnam to Avoid A Deadly, Everyday Legacy of War” from NPR News

1. According to the text, what is something that children in Vietnam learn in school today that is different than what you learn in school? Was this surprising to you? Why or why not?
2. Approximately how many years ago were the bombs dropped in Vietnam?
3. How do the children react when they find an undetonated bomb? What actions do they take?
4. The text explains that in the mid 1990s, the U.S. had little interest in helping to eliminate the undetonated bombs and mines in Vietnam. Why was that the case? Make an inference based on the evidence presented in the text.

5. How has the U.S. involvement in the undetonated bomb/mine disposal changed since the mid 1990s? Why do you think that change took place?
6. Besides the undetonated bombs and mines, the text references the consequences of exposure to Agent Orange. According to the text, what is Agent Orange and how does it impact those who come into contact with it?
7. Based on the evidence presented in the text, how are the children of Vietnam, and generations of Vietnamese in general, impacted by a war of which they were not a part? Is this fair or unfair? Explain your reasoning.