

Gran Torino: Dealing with wartime trauma



Idee und Mitarbeit: StRef Julian Laudwein

Einstieg:

- Bildcollage von traumatisierten Soldaten, z.B. [Bild 1](#), [Bild 2](#), [Bild 3](#), [Bild 4](#)
- Arbeitsanweisung: "Describe the pictures. What do they have in common?"
- L erklärt Begriff *Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)*. Eine kurze, prägnante Definition gibt es z.B. [hier](#) (*US Department of Veterans Affairs*)
- Zusatzinformation: "Very often, PTSD doesn't start immediately after the fight – in fact, it can take years or even decades to develop. We know that Walt saw active service in Korea – how, in your opinion, does he seem to cope with the things he saw and did in Korea? Would you say Walt is suffering from PTSD? Why (not)?"
- S spekulieren und geben eine erste Einschätzung ab

Erarbeitung:

Your task:

- Find a partner and decide who will deal with which of the two following texts:
 - <http://www.caringnews.com/en/122/1/135/Older-Veterans-May-Experience-Delayed-Post-Traumatic-Stress-Disorder.htm> (up to "Help is available")
 - <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-ptsd-vietnam-vets-idUSKCNOPW1TZ20150722>
- Use the information given on your website to complete Part #1 of the PTSD worksheet (you may have to leave gaps).
- Exchange information with your partner and add his/her information to your PTSD worksheet.
- Then move on to discuss whether or to what extent PTSD as characterized in the texts might also apply to Walt. Use Part #2 of your worksheet to structure your discussion and/or notes. Make sure you support your opinion with examples from the film. Be prepared to present your results.
 - If you find a final assessment difficult, the following questions might prove helpful:
 - If Walt were suffering from PTSD, what kind of attitude towards the war and the Army would you expect?
 - How does Walt treat his "memorabilia" from his time in the Army? (his lighter, his footlocker¹, his weapons...)
 - How do you assess the fact that Walt doesn't have any modern firearms but seems to have held on to those he had in Korea (a M1 Garand rifle and a Colt .45 pistol)?
- mögl. Vertiefung / Hausaufgabe: "Discuss whether or to what extent Walt's attitude towards the Army and his time in Korea can be called ambiguous!"

¹ footlocker = a box used by soldiers to store their kit and their belongings