

Gran Torino: Dealing with wartime trauma



Worksheet

Part #1 (individual work):

According to the texts, what wartime events caused veterans to develop PTSD?

Explain why many veterans of the Korea or Vietnam War were not diagnosed as being traumatized on their return from war.

Explain why PTSD often comes out or becomes worse when veterans reach a certain age.

List some of the symptoms that traumatized veterans might experience.

Part #2 (partner work):

How much do these results apply to Walt? Could he be suffering from PTSD?

How do other people see Walt? Describe Walt through the eyes of his children and their families, Father Janovich, his friends, his new neighbours...

Watch the conversations between Walt and Father Janovich on the one hand (DVD 00:17:20—00:19:50; 00:27:11—00:29:17) and Walt and Thao on the other hand (DVD 01:36:10—01:37:00). What does Walt reveal about his wartime experience?

Now try a final assessment. Would it be correct to assume that Walt is suffering from PTSD?