

Name _____

Dear America: Letters Home From Vietnam

As you watch this film, answer the following questions. Questions 1-9 can be answered in a few words while you watch the film. Questions 10-15 require more thought and draw on information presented throughout the course of the film. As you watch, be sure to take notes in order to answer those questions for homework.

1. The film begins its chronicling of U.S. involvement in Vietnam in what year?
2. What are Hueys? What is a “Zippo Raid?”
3. The terms “V.C.,” “Charlie” and “Chuck” all refer to what?
4. What was the average age of a U.S. combat soldier in Vietnam?
5. On Tet, the Chinese New Year, what did the Viet Cong and the NVA (North Vietnamese Army) do?
6. Shortly after the Tet Offensive, what did Lyndon Johnson decide?
7. What sorts of people were killed by U.S. soldiers at My Lai?
8. At the May, 1970 anti-war protest at Kent State University in Ohio, what did National Guard troops do?
9. How did the U.S. soldiers in Vietnam respond to this event?

After the Film

10. What were some of the things that made fighting so difficult for the U.S. soldiers in Vietnam?
11. There are many shots of South Vietnamese civilians throughout the film. Describe how these people lived.
12. List several reasons why (according to their letters) these soldiers fought in Vietnam.
13. When they had the chance, what did the U.S. soldiers do for rest, fun and relaxation?
14. How does the music contribute to the film? Are you familiar with any of the songs or artists?
15. Overall, do you think this film has a “message” concerning the Vietnam War? What do you think it is? What is its point of view or perspective regarding U.S. involvement in Vietnam?