



Unit 11 Soldier's Heart





Louis Simpson

Structure

Part One: Warm-up

Part Two: Background Information

Part Three: Text Appreciation

Part Four: Language Study

Part Five: Extension





Part One Warm-up

Warm-up questions

1. Is the author eulogizing the heroic spirit shown by the American soldiers in the Second World War?
2. Is war a permanent human condition as the author says?
3. What are the causes of international conflicts?
4. How do we determine whether a war is just or unjust?
5. Is there anything positive to be said about war?





PART TWO BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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- I. Author

- II. Background Information



I. Author

- Louis Simpson (1923~) was born in Jamaica, West Indies. The son of a lawyer of Scottish descent and a Russian mother, he emigrated to the United States when he was 17 and went to study at Columbia University in New York City.



II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- board game: a game of strategy, such as chess or backgammon, played by moving pieces on a board and sometimes involving dice.



Chekhov:

Russian playwright and one of the great masters of modern short story. In his work Chekhov combined the dispassionate attitude of a scientist and a doctor with the sensitivity and psychological understanding of an artist.



- Normandy:
- This a region in northern France along the English Channel where the allied invasion took place in the Second World War (June 6, 1944), thus opening the second front against the



PART THREE TEXT APPRECIATION

- Contents


- I. Text Structure

- II. Theme

- III. Detailed Analysis



i STRUCTURE

- Part I. (Para. 1~Para. 3) :
 - The description of the author's war memories in France in the summer of 1944.
 - Part II. (Para.4~ end) :
 - The description of his life immediately after the war: how he goes back to the university to continue his education and how he breaks down and is diagnosed as suffering from "soldier's heart", a mental illness resulting from being shot at and shelled for months on end.
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ii **THEME**

- The author tells people why he keeps writing about his war experiences and his life after the war. Wars should be remembered because the people who have so bravely borne the hardships, sufferings and sacrifices of war should be remembered. These common people are people who deserve respect and admiration.



iii DETAILED ANALYSIS

- **1.** I was discharged from the U.S. Army in 1945 and went home. (para 4)
- to discharge : to allow or tell sb to go
- eg. She was discharged from the intensive care unit last week and transferred to a general ward.
- The judge found him not guilty and discharged him.



- **2.** One person had it that...(para 5)
- to have it that...: to say that sth is true
- eg. We don't know for sure what caused the accident. One rumor has it that the princess was trying too hard to get rid of the photographers.



○ 3. Para. 16

- **slip:** to move smoothly, secretly, or unnoticed, eg:
 - He slipped out before the lecture was over.
 - She slipped away without being seen.
- **to be particular about:** to pay too much attention to or to be too concerned with
 - My wife is very particular about her shoes. She doesn't trust my taste.
 - I'm not very particular about food. I have no special preference.



○ 4. Para. 18-19

- **range**: the distance over which a particular weapon can hit the target, eg:
- This is a long-range missile.
- Hold your fire until the enemy soldiers are within range.
- **at close range**: at a short distance; very near
- **Paraphrase**:
- "What have we to complain of who have only known 'solder's heart?'"
- Compared with those who died or were seriously maimed in the war, we, who only suffered a "soldier's heart" really have no right to complain.



○ **5. Para. 22**

- **to be pale in comparison:** to seem small or unimportant compared to sb./sth. else
- **hollow:** without substance or character; empty, shallow, and superficial
- **Paraphrase:**
- **“The men and women I worked.. filled with words. ”**
- Compared to the people with whom I fought side by side during the war, the people I worked with in universities were pale and unreal. They talked a lot, but their words were empty and meaningless because they had not experienced real life.



○ 6. Para. 23

- **breed:** a particular kind of people or things
- **What is the author's opinion about structuralism, post structuralism and deconstructionism?**
- The author clearly opposes the principles and methods of structuralism, post structuralism and deconstructionism, which were challenging the traditional approaches in linguistics, literature, psychology and anthropology in the 1960s.



○ 7. Para. 25

- **as if**: used to say that sth. is definitely no true, eg:
 - Let him go, as if I care!
 - Don't listen to him, as if he knew everything!
- **stunning**: strikingly attractive
- **specimen**: an individual representative of a type or class; an example; a sample
- **at a good pace**: at a satisfactory speed quite quickly
- **Paraphrase**:
 - **"As if any life were common!"**
 - It is ridiculous to think that any life is common.
 - **"And they weren't stunning physical ... at a good pace."**
 - And they were not astonishingly strong or

○ **8. Para. 27**

○ **to hold sth/sb in contempt:** to feel contempt for sb/sth; to despise

○ **to be deaf to:** to be unwilling to hear or listen, eg:

○ He was deaf to all advice.

○ They were deaf to people's complaints.

○ **Paraphrase:**

○ **"What is the only thing ... met with indifference?"**

○ What if people should show contempt for my writing – the only thing I can do – or should simply pay no attention?

○ **"They were deaf to the music."**

○ My war experience gave me poetry and music. I would never get tired of writing about it. But they just didn't care to know what happened in the war.

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PART FOUR LANGUAGE STUDY

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oI. Glossary

oII. Useful Phrases and Expressions



I. GLOSSARY

- 1. ammunition
- 2. casualty
- 3. console
- 4. controversy
- 5. irremidable



- **ammunition**

- n. [U] any means, material, or weapons used in a military conflict

- Examples:

- Soldiers had to meet the attack with very little ammunition in the battle.

- The mistakes of the president provided very good ammunition for his rivals.



casualty

n. the loss in numbers in action against the enemy through injury, death or other causes

Examples:

Heavy casualties were reported in the highway car accident.

The house was the first casualty of the forest fire.



- **console**

- v. to cheer in time of grief, defeat, or trouble; to comfort

- console sb. for/on sth.

- Examples:

- Peter consoled himself with the thought that it might have been worse.

- Nothing could console her when her boyfriend left her.



○ **controversy**

- controversial adj. controversialist n.
controvert v. controvertible adj.
- n. dispute (usually lengthy and public)
- controversy about/over sth.
- Examples:
- The author's new novel aroused a lot of controversy.
- The point in controversy is not whether we should do it, but whether we can do it.



irremediable



adj. impossible to remedy, correct or repair

Examples:

irremediable errors in judgment

an irremediable loss

an irremediable mistake

ad.

irremediably



EXPRESSIONS

- Lie face down
- bury the dead
- Receive shock treatment
- Imagine doing sth
- deaf to the music
- a bullet head
- taken up with music
- hell on earth



PART FIVE EXTENSION

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Translation



TRANSLATION

Go ahead with life as it is, with the bumps and pitfalls. However it is, give your best to every moment. Don't spend your time waiting for the perfect situation, something which is not very likely to come. Life is not perfect; the way you live can make it perfectly wonderful.



THANK YOU !

