

Assessing with Primary Sources

Grade Level: Middle School (6-8)

Standard(s) or Objectives: CCSS.RI.8.4 - Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.

CCSS.RI.6.5 - Analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the ideas.

Library of Congress Resources:

Paul Alexander Steppe, Jr. (1992). *An Everlasting Watch*. Retrieved from Library of Congress American Memory website at:

<http://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp-stories/loc.natlib.afc2001001.04941/pageturner?ID=pm0001001&page=7>

CHAPTER ONE
On the Front Lines

... [The text is extremely small and mostly illegible, appearing to be the beginning of a chapter from a memoir.] ...

Topic Background: The author narrates a cold night in December, 1951 when a soldier was in the front line guarding and waiting to switch guarding with a private.

Excerpted from: <http://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp-stories/loc.natlib.afc2001001.04941/pageturner?ID=pm0001001&page=7>

Source Used: The source used for this assessment includes excerpts from a memoir that narrates the experiences of war veterans.

Multiple Choice Answer Key:

Question 1 – D

Question 2 – B

CHAPTER ONE

December, 1951 On the Front (MLR)

Feeling the kick on the soles of my boots I awoke immediately. Not in a deep sleep, waking up wasn't difficult. The kick was the signal from my bunker buddy, already standing watch, that it was time for me to relieve him on that tour of duty. It was my turn for another two hours of sitting, stooping and staying alert outside the bunker in the snow, ice and cold winds with the temperature about 20 degrees below zero. It was my bunker buddy's turn to try to thaw out, check his feet, lips, ears, nose, face and fingers, and if everything appeared to be somewhat normal and not frostbitten, he would try to relax and gather as much of the two hours sleep allotted him as he could. Sleeping in our bunker with ice several inches thick, covered with cardboard to make it appear warmer than it was, wasn't all that bad. It was cold inside, but it was cold wherever one went, except the latrine on the reverse side of the front lines near the Company Command Bunker. It was here that a well built, large bunker had accommodations for perhaps 12-15 persons at one time with a great field stove, almost red hot and providing blistering heat to everyone in attendance. Each person using these facilities could not stay too long, but everyone had their chance to enjoy this wonderful invention during daylight hours, and when called to take their turn. At night the stove was extinguished and no one was allowed out of their positions.

1. According to the passage, Being a soldier is a strenuous position. Which sentence in the text supports this claim? (CCSS.RI. 8.1)

- A. It was here that a well built, bunker accommodate more than 12 people at one time..
- B. Everyone had the chance to enjoy this wonderful invention.
- C. It was time for me to relieve him from his duties.
- D. It was my turn for another two hours of sitting, and staying alert outside the bunker in the strenuous weather condition.

2. Which is the meaning of the word “bunker” as it is used in this passage? (CCSS.RI.8.4)

- A. a war tank
- B. a shelter
- C. a fortress
- D. a boat