

The Veteran in a New Field, 1865 by Winslow Homer [1836–1910]

1. What is this man doing?
2. How do we know?
3. Notice the light and shadows on the man. Where is the sun?
4. How do you think the man feels in this sun?
5. How do we know?
6. Describe how Homer divided the scene in this painting.
7. In what bands are the man's feet?
8. In what band is his body?
9. Where is the top of his head?
10. Of what war was this man a veteran?
11. How does Homer show us this?
12. What might laying aside his uniform represent?
13. Why is this new field for him?
14. If this man had been in a grain field the previous year, what would he probably have been doing?
15. What subjects had Winslow Homer been sketching for the past few years?
16. What does a figure carrying a scythe usually symbolize?
17. Whose deaths might Homer be alluding to?
18. What might a bountiful field of wheat represent?
19. Because a seemingly dead seed buried in the ground rises as a new plant, grain can be a symbol of rebirth or new beginnings. What might this suggest about the country after the Civil War?

Historical Connections: Civil War; Battle of Bull Run; Surrender at Appomattox (1865)

Historical Figures: Abraham Lincoln; Jefferson Davis; Robert E. Lee; Ulysses S. Grant; Stonewall Jackson; William Tecumseh Sherman; George McClellan

Geography: Northern and Southern states; slave and free states

Literary Connections and Primary Documents: *Bull Run*, Paul Fleischman; Bible—Isaiah 2:4; 40:6–8; *The Red Badge of Courage*, Stephen Crane; *Across Five Aprils*, Irene Hunt; “Come Up from the Fields, Father,” Walt Whitman

Music: “The Battle Hymn of the Republic”; “Dixie”