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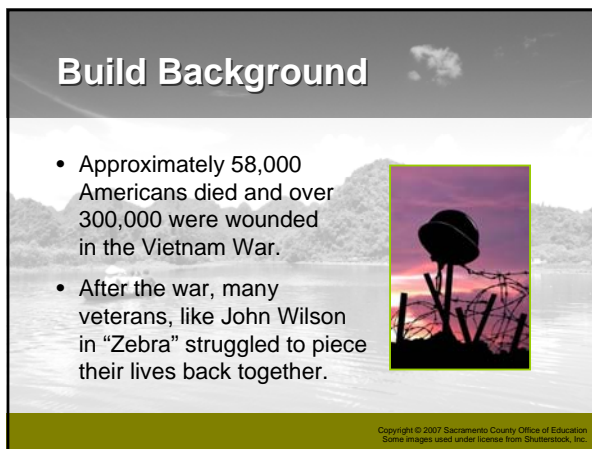
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### Words to Know

- disciplinarian
- encrusted
- exuberantly
- gaunt
- intricate
- jauntily
- menacing
- poised
- tensing
- wince

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### Focus Your Reading

- **Characters** are the people, animals, or imaginary creatures who appear in stories.
- Usually a short story focuses on one or two **main characters**.



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### Focus Your Reading

- Less important characters are called **minor characters**.
- As you read “Zebra”, identify the main characters.



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### Focus Your Reading

- An **inference** is a logical conclusion based on evidence.
- Whenever you read a story, look for **details** that help you understand what is going on.



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### Focus Your Reading

Reader's Notebook

- As you read, create a chart to help you keep track of the inferences you make about Zebra and his experiences.



Download this graphic organizer at [www.curriculumcompanion.org](http://www.curriculumcompanion.org)

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### Literary Analysis

How do you know that Zebra is a main character?



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### Active Reading

What happened to Zebra, and what clues help you know?



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### Reading Skills and Strategies

- Why is he fishing around in trash cans?
- Use your own experiences and knowledge to comprehend what the author means by “the left sleeve of his jacket was empty”.



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### Literary Analysis-Active Reading

- What can you tell about the man from the action at this point in the selection?
- Make an inference as to why Zebra might have given the man this advice.
- Note the differences in the author’s treatment of Mrs. Walsh and John Wilson.
- What suggests that he is a main character and she is a minor one?

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### Literary Analysis

Do you agree or disagree with Andrea's assessment of Zebra's character and why?



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### Active Reading

- Draw an inference about how hard or easy it is for the man to make this drawing.
- Support your answers with text evidence and experience.



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### Literary Analysis-Active Reading

- What do you think Mr. Wilson's motive is for making the drawing for Zebra?
- Why do you think Zebra tells the man his nickname?
- After Zebra tells his nickname, the man changes his drawing.
- What does this action suggest about his character traits?

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### Active Reading-Literary Analysis

- Why does Zebra want to know about Vietnam?
- What details about Mr. Morgan help you know his character?
- What words might you use to describe John Wilson?



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### Literary Analysis

A **simile** is a comparison between two different things that are alike in some way.

- Similes use *like* or *as*.
- Identify the simile in this paragraph.
- Describe the images the description evokes, and what the simile might mean.

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### Reading Skills and Strategies

Identify ways that Zebra and John Wilson are alike and different.



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### Active Reading

What can you infer why John Wilson might have reacted as he did to the helicopter?



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### Reading Skills and Strategies

- What is different about Zebra here in the selection?
- What about him has changed?
- In what way is the act of drawing similar for Zebra and for John Wilson?
- Why does John Wilson say that Leon “Would’ve been a much better artist than I’ll every be”?  
– Why won’t he be a better artist?

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### Literary Analysis

- A **symbol** is a person or object that stands for something beyond itself.
- What do the zebra and the helicopter stand for?
- In what ways are they alike?



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### Literary Analysis

What has changed in Zebra's life?



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### Active Reading

Why might Mrs. English have touched her eyes?



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### Reading Skills and Strategies

- The names on the wall of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial are names of American soldiers who died in the war or were missing in action.
- Do you think John Wilson is worthy of a salute, and why or why not?



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## Literary Analysis

- The characters who change little in the story are called **static characters**.
- Those who change in some important way are called **dynamic characters**.
- In what ways has Zebra changed?
- Is he a static or dynamic character?

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