Gran Torino: Dealing with wartime trauma

Idee und Mitarbeit: StRef Julian Laudwein

Einstieg:

* Bildcollage von traumatisierten Soldaten, z.B. [Bild 1](http://www.ceciliacapuzzisimon.com/article_images/0000/0051/iraq_war.jpg), [Bild 2](http://entheology.com/wp-content/uploads/traumatized-veterans-ecstasy-300x175.jpg), [Bild 3](https://ndvets.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/ptsd.jpg), [Bild 4](https://i1.wp.com/unitedchildrenofveterans.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/index.jpg?resize=275%2C183)
* Arbeitsanweisung: *"Describe the pictures. What do they have in common?"*
* L erklärt Begriff *Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).* Eine kurze, prägnante Definition gibt es z.B. [hier](https://www.ptsd.va.gov/understand/index.asp) (*US Department of Veterans Affairs)*
* Zusatzinformation: *"Very often, PTSD doesn't start immediately after the fight – in fact, it can take years or even decades to develop. We know that Walt saw active service in Korea – how, in your opinion, does he seem to cope with the things he saw and did in Korea? Would you say Walt is suffering from PTSD? Why (not)?"*
* S spekulieren und geben eine erste Einschätzung ab

Erarbeitung:

**Your task:**

* *Find a partner and decide who will deal with which of the two following texts:*
  + <http://www.caringnews.com/en/122/1/135/Older-Veterans-May-Experience-Delayed-Post-Traumatic-Stress-Disorder.htm> (up to "Help is available")
  + <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-ptsd-vietnam-vets-idUSKCN0PW1TZ20150722>
* *Use the information given on your website to complete Part #1 of the PTSD worksheet (you may have to leave gaps).*
* *Exchange information with your partner and add his/her information to your PTSD worksheet.*
* *Then move on to discuss whether or to what extent PTSD as characterized in the texts might also apply to Walt. Use Part #2 of your worksheet to structure your discussion and/or notes. Make sure you support your opinion with examples from the film. Be prepared to present your results.*
  + *If you find a final assessment difficult, the following questions might prove helpful:*
    - *If Walt were suffering from PTSD, what kind of attitude towards the war and the Army would you expect?*
    - *How does Walt treat his "memorabilia" from his time in the Army? (his lighter, his footlocker[[1]](#footnote-1), his weapons…)*
    - *How do you assess the fact that Walt doesn't have any modern firearms but seems to have held on to those he had in Korea (a M1 Garand rifle and a Colt .45 pistol)?*
* **mögl. Vertiefung / Hausaufgabe:** "Discuss whether or to what extent Walt's attitude towards the Army and his time in Korea can be called ambiguous!"

1. footlocker = a box used by soldiers to store their kit and their belongings [↑](#footnote-ref-1)