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**“A Sight in Camp in the Daybreak Gray and Dim”**

**Walt Whitman**

**A sight in camp in the daybreak gray and dim,**

**As from my tent I emerge so early sleepless,**

**As slow I walk in the cool fresh air the path near by the hospital tent,**

**Three forms I see on stretchers lying, brought out there untended lying,**

**Over each the blanket spread, ample brownish woolen blanket,**

**Gray and heavy blanket, folding, covering all.**

**Curious I halt and silent stand,**

**Then with light fingers I from the face of the nearest the first just lift the blanket;**

**Who are you elderly man so gaunt and grim, with well-gray'd hair, and flesh all sunken about the eyes?**

**Who are you my dear comrade?**

**Then to the second I step--and who are you my child and darling?**

**Who are you sweet boy with cheeks yet blooming?**

**Then to the third--a face nor child nor old, very calm, as of beautiful yellow-white ivory;**

**Young man I think I know you--I think this face is the face of the Christ himself,**

**Dead and divine and brother of all, and here again he lies.**

**Homework Questions**

1. **How would you describe the overall mood of this poem? What specific words or phrases help to create this mood? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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1. **How does Whitman use the imagery of the three figures he uncovers as a representation of everyone involved in this war? What choices did he make to make it universal?**

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1. **Why do you think Whitman compares the third soldier to Christ? What is he trying to say about the war through that comparison?**

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