

UNIT 6 Hard Times
Depression and World War II 1929–1945

A STEINBOUD
FROEBEL
BILINGUAL SCHOOL
Home of the Space Generation

THE DEATH OF THE BALL TURRET GUNNER

& WORLD WAR II
RECRUITMENT POSTERS

WITH
JIM SOTO

SPEAK YOUR MIND

Calling someone a **patriot** has always been considered flattering praise.

What sacrifices are people asked to make for their country?

What sacrifices would you make for your country? Why?

Take a minute to consider and answer the question in your notebook.



DEATH IN THE METAL WOMB

“The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner,” by **Randall Jarrell**, is perhaps the best-known American poem about World War II. Published in 1945, at the end of the war. Randall Jarrell was born in Nashville, Tennessee. after earning his master’s degrees from Vanderbilt University, he taught writing at Kenyon College and published his first volume of poetry, *Blood for a Stranger*, in 1942.





In a footnote that accompanied the poem, Jarrell explained to readers the job of the ball turret gunner:

A ball turret was a plexiglass sphere set into the belly of a B-17 or B-24, and inhabited by two .50 caliber machine guns and one man, a short small man.

When this gunner tracked with his machine guns a fighter attacking his bomber from below, he revolved with the turret; hunched upside-down in his little sphere, he looked like the fetus in the womb. The fighters attacking him were armed with cannon firing explosive shells. The hose was a steam hose.



Reread Jarrell's explanation of a ball turret gunner in the Build Background section, and notice the simile he makes in describing the gunner: "he looked like the fetus in the womb." With that description in mind, analyze the poem as an extended metaphor. What two things are being compared, point by point? Also record the images Jarrell uses to portray the gunner, identifying the senses to which they relate.

WORLD WAR II
RECRUITMENT POSTERS

ENLISTING WOMEN



Around 6 million women volunteered to serve their country when the U.S. entered the war. Many enlisted in all-female divisions, such as the Navy's **Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service** and the Army's **Women's Army Corps**. Others joined the Red Cross, to care for wounded troops overseas. At home, women filled jobs previously performed by men in shipyards, munitions plants, foundries, and steel mills. The proud image of **Rosie the Riveter** is an ongoing symbol of women's productivity and contribution to win wars.

Appeals to emotions are an effective way of persuading people. The World War II posters shown here were designed to recruit women into these roles. As you view them, consider what emotions they were designed to evoke to achieve that goal.

This **Informational Text Connection** consists of five World War II recruitment posters aimed at women, urging them to take manufacturing jobs, join the WAVES or the WACS, and volunteer with the Red Cross.





To interpret visual aids, or graphics accompanying a text, you should consider how the text helps them understand the pictures and vice versa.

LITERARY ELEMENTS

Extended Metaphor

Refers to a point-by-point presentation of one thing as though it were another. The description is intended to imply a comparison, so we can associate the thing being described with something quite different.

Imagery

Is figurative or descriptive language used to create word pictures, or images.





Compare and contrast the impression of war created by the posters with that created by “The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner.” In particular, consider the visual images used in the posters against the word images Jarrell created in his poem. Which seems to provide the most realistic view of war?

ASSESSMENT

After reading pages 481-486 in your book, complete the activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
 - **Extended Metaphor and Imagery** - What two things are being compared in this extended metaphor? Identify the points of comparison that help you make the association between these two things. Is Jarrell's use of this metaphor effective in portraying death and war?
 - Review the list of images you identified in this poem. In particular, to what sense do the images relate?



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