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### Three Sides of War

The rain has just stopped in the jungle. The leaves are still dripping with water, and the fog is slinking through the trees and brush. A man jerks awake, his hands resting on his machine gun. There is utter silence, no noise at all in the dense jungle. A bush begins moving; then the bush turns into the full figure of a man easing through the fog. Silently he moves, with more men falling silently in behind him. The first man finally realizes what his eyes are seeing, and he begins firing his weapon, awakening every living thing in the jungle. Explosions ring out as other soldiers awaken and join the firefight. After a few moments, all noise ceases, and there are bodies everywhere. This is a scene from the movie *Platoon*, a war movie depicting a young soldier's survival of the Vietnam War. This movie shows how war can change people from one person into a completely different person, how good triumphs over evil, and how violence can affect people.

First, this movie shows how war can change people morally. A good example of this is when the sergeant of the platoon reverts to torture to gather information from a Vietnamese civilian. The sergeant beats the old man for information, and when the sergeant doesn't get the answer he wants, he shoots the old man's wife. This action is shocking and doesn't reflect what most of us would expect from an honorable sergeant in the U.S. Army. This is a good example of how the circumstances of war can change us from a good person into a savage killer.

Secondly, this movie shows how good can triumph over evil. The hero in the movie is a

young private who survives the horrors of the Vietnam War. He overcomes being the young, naïve new guy in the war. The hero survives firefights with the Vietnamese, and, in the end, he kills the sergeant who is trying to kill him because he believes that the sergeant was wrong in killing the civilian woman. The hero is wounded in the process and is sent home, but he isn't the same man as before. He has faced death up close and has survived.

Thirdly, this movie shows how violence can affect people. An example of this is when we see a young soldier just like the hero get killed after only a short time in Vietnam. The soldier has just shown the hero a picture of his girlfriend back home that he wants to marry, and in the next scene, we see him lying on the ground, gasping for air as his blood is spilling out of his body. This affects the whole platoon; they just stand over the body and stare. This scene shows us how fragile life is and how quickly it can be snuffed out like a candle in the wind. A young man, full of life, is turned into an ugly, lifeless form with nothing left.

This movie shows us how war changes people, how good can triumph over evil, and how violence can affect us. This movie also shows that war isn't glorious or beautiful but horrible and ugly. We see that war brings out the savage in each of us. We will do things to survive that otherwise might not ever pop into our head. We see killing and violence all through this movie, and the movie reminds us that war is evil and that we should avoid it unless evil attacks us.