



John Brown

1. Describe the meeting of the soldier with his mother when he returns from the war?

A letter had come asking John Brown's mother to meet the train as her son was returning home from war. She went to the station, looked everywhere but could not find her son in the crowd. When she finally saw her son, she could hardly believe her eyes. She was shocked to see her son's condition. Her shock is evident as she asks her son what had they done to him. John Brown tried to talk but his mouth could hardly move. His mother had to turn her face away seeing her son struggle with pain. He reminded his mother how she thought that being a soldier, and fighting in the war was the best thing that he could do. He told his mother that while he was on the battle field, she was home acting proud and did not know the reality of war, that he was facing. John had wondered what he was doing in the war, he realized that he was trying to kill a man or try to die trying to save himself. The thing that scared him most was when his enemy came close and he saw the same look on his face. The look where both of them realizes the futility of war and that they are puppets. In the midst of explosion and stink from the rotten carcasses John Brown realizes that he is just a 'puppet in a play'. He has no will of his own and the string for him had broken when a canon ball blew his eyes away, making him unfit to remain a soldier. Saying all this John Brown dropped his medals into the hollow of his mother's hands and walked away.

2. Why was the mother unable to recognize her son after he returned from the war?

The son's face was all shot up and his hand was all blown up. He wore a metal brace around his waist, which helped him walk. His voice had changed as he could not move his mouth and 'Whispered kind of slow in a voice she didn't know'. All these changes made the son un-recognizable to his mother. Her son was no longer standing tall in his uniform, holding a gun; He had been broken and wore a metal brace around his waist. This picture of her son hurts her to an extent that she couldn't recognize her own son. John Brown.

3. When did the son realize the futility of war and what was the realization?

The son realizes the futility of war when he is on the battle field. He realizes that in order to survive, he has to kill somebody or die trying to save himself. He sees the same fear and the same look in the face of another man, just like him, who was another puppet in the same play of power.