Father Comes Home from the War Response

For this response, I would like to talk about the life of Penny as Hero is away at war. From what I have learned in class, history repeats itself. I think that whole reason we study history is to learn from humanities mistakes. Although historians add guidance to society, it inevitably repeats over and over. From the stories read in class, in this response, I would like to compare how Penny is just a repeat in history. Penny cheated. She started to sleep with another man as Hero went off to war. Is this justified? Penny, a woman, was left alone for a long time, and even love can break. What was beautiful about Penny’s situation is that she still loved Hero. She loved him after her left, while he was gone, and cried tears of joy when he returned. So why did she cheat? She obviously loved him. She missed human contact. She let him into her bed but not her heart. It was simply that. Do I think Hero should be mad, even though he did not cheat? I think he is justified in being upset, but I think it should be forgiven. Hero went to a world unknown and scary, distracted with what life is treating him like. Penny stayed home, doing the same thing every day, wanting the contact a woman wants. I can compare this to when any country goes to war. When the USA entered world war 2, many men left to fight, leaving their wives alone and scared for their husbands. I do believe that those wives did not lose the love, but only missed the contact of a man. Same goes for Penny and Hero.

The next subject I would like to talk about is the interaction between Hero and his colonel. Why does a slave obey his master even though he is practically the ‘devil’ to them all their lives? Hero is in a special case, which I would like to talk about. He has promised freedom after he returns, why risk it? If I was in his situation, and I speak very timidly here because truly, I have no idea what it was like to be a slave. Anyone can try to picture themselves during that time, but no one can truly understand. But, I would have not trusted him at all. Slaves were never educated, never taught to read or write. They only knew life on a plantation. That is why slaves were around for so long because they could never get the organization to fight for themselves. It is truly our nations shame. Really, the worlds. This class has taught me that everyone judges everyone all the time. It is something that I always try to avoid. Personality defines a man, not his skin color. How you act defines you. One scene that was beautiful in the sense of being able to capture the similarities of back then to now is the similarities between what black people must go through now. This country still has discrimination, and I am afraid it will never stop. There will always be someone who still feels that being different makes you superior. I hope that one day I can see a time where a black man isn’t pulled from the street just because he is walking at night on a sidewalk. I hope a black man isn’t shot with his hands up because a cop thought he was pulling a gun out when putting up his hands. Cops have been under fire in the past few years because there is racism within the law, just like there was back then. When a black man got killed on the street for having sex with a white man’s wife, nothing happens to the white man during the 1800’s. I do think times have changed. I do think it is so much more equal when it comes to equality within American people, but I do not think it will ever be exactly equal. History says it. Again, I always find myself burst with so many feelings when writing these responses because each story is so comparable to today. To be honest, I am so glad I took this course.