

Name: _____

. Period: _____

War – Luigi Pirandello – Reading Questions

Textbook pages 1206 -1211

1. The Roman poet Horace once wrote “It is a great and beautiful thing to die for one’s country.” Do you agree or disagree with Horace? Explain your answer.

2. Now that you have stated your opinion, explain the opinion of someone who would hold the opposite point of view. Make sure to explain what their reasoning might be.

3. Track the attitudes that the different characters have toward **war** and **personal sacrifice**:

*Wife –

*Husband -

*First Passenger –

*Second Passenger –

*Old Man –

- 4. Which of the character’s views about war and personal sacrifice do you agree with? Which attitude do you disagree with? Explain both answers.

- 5. Why does the husband feel that the other passengers should pity his wife? Explain your answer.

- 6. According to the old man, how should parents react to the death of a son in the war?

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1pnt

7. Why does the wife's question cause the old man to lose his composure?

1pnt

8. How did you react to the old man's fit of grief at the end of the story? Explain your answer.

2pnts

9. Foreshadowing is when an author gives clues or hints to the reader about something that is going to happen later in the story. What details in the story foreshadow the old man's breakdown? Explain your answer.

4pnts

10. Based on what you know about the characters on the train, explain how you think each one would have reacted to the old man's breakdown. Explain reasons for each answer. **1 point per answer.**

*Wife –

*Husband -

*First Passenger –

*Second Passenger –

4pnts

11. Analyze the character of the old man. Begin by discussing the techniques that Pirandello uses to develop this character. Then discuss the old man's personality traits. Use details and quotations from the story to support your analysis.

5pnts

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12. **On a separate piece of paper answer the following:** For most of the story, the old man hides what he really feels. Why do people sometimes try to hide their true feelings from themselves and others? **Response must be at least 5 complete sentences. Use specific details for support.**