

Student _____ Date _____

“A Sight in the Camp in the Daybreak Gray and Dim” by Walt Whitman: Paraphrase for Meaning

Text	Paraphrase	Meaning
<p>A sight in camp in the daybreak gray and dim, AS from my tent I emerge so early sleepless, AS slow I walk in the cool fresh air the path near by the hospital tent, Three forms I see on stretchers lying, brought out there untended lying, Over each the blanket spread, ample brownish woolen blanket, Gray and heavy blanket, folding covering all.</p>	<p>It is very early in the morning in the military camp. I didn't sleep well and so I left my tent to walk around in the cool air on the path by the hospital tent. I saw three bodies on stretchers. No one else was around. Each of the bodies was covered by a brown, wool blanket.</p>	<p>The words “gray and dim” help me to picture how very early in the morning this is happening. I can imagine a soldier or someone one else not being able to sleep because of the horrors he had seen during the battle the day before. I think he wants to go for a walk to get the smell of the blood and death from himself. But he can't get away. There are three bodies lying on stretchers near where he is walking. Each dead soldier is covered with a blanket. Whitman uses language that compares the blanket to soil saying it is “ample, brownish, and covering all.” This makes me think that it was like a burial for the soldiers.</p>
<p>Curious I halt and silent stand, Then with light fingers I from the face of the nearest the first just lift the blanket; Who are you elderly man so gaunt and grim, with well-gray'd hair, and flesh all sunken about the eyes? Who are you my dear comrade?</p> <p>Then to the second I step—and who are you my child and darling? Who are you sweet boy with cheeks yet blooming?</p>		

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<p>Then to the third—a face nor child nor old, very calm, as of beautiful yellow-white ivory; Young man I think I know you—I think this face is the face of the Christ himself, Dead and divine and brother of all, and here again he lies.</p>		
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