

Name _____ Period _____

Viewing Guide

BEFORE

Read Alfred Rascon's profile.

DURING (Answer the following questions)

1. Where was Alfred Rascon born? What state did he move to at a very early age?
2. Alfred Rascon states Mexicans were viewed and treated equally in the town where he lived. He also says, "I tell people I'm immigrant by birth, American by choice." Does this mean he is proud of or ashamed of his Mexican heritage?
3. What was Alfred Rascon's occupations specialty in the Army when he was 17?
4. The word "caches" of weapons most likely means what?
5. All of a sudden, the troops were getting "mortared." What do you think this word most likely means?
6. What was "Doc Rascon" ordered to do when the unit was being attacked by the Vietnamese? What specifically did he do instead?
7. Despite heavy fire, what did Alfred Rascon retrieve for the wounded gunman?
8. What did a grenade finally do to Alfred Rascon?
9. Alfred Rascon said once the grenade exploded, he "didn't want to play anymore." What did he mean, and what did he end up doing?
10. How did Alfred Rascon use his body to help the soldier with the back wound?
11. How did the Army explain the delay in awarding Alfred Rascon's Medal?
12. How many years passed from the time of Alfred Rascon's action until he was awarded the Medal?
13. Which President awarded Alfred Rascon the Medal of Honor?

AFTER (Respond to one of the following essay prompts)

1. "People may know there are thousands of people who deserve rewards, but it's just the circumstances of what's there. Sometimes people aren't there to write them up." What do you have to say for those people who have demonstrated valor but have not been nominated for the Medal? Consider that two witnesses need to nominate a soldier for the Medal. Do you think that is fair? If not, what steps should be taken to remember those people not honored?
2. When asked why they worked so hard to ensure that Alfred Rascon received the Medal of Honor, one of Rascon's unit-mates said, "We don't want to change history, we just want to correct it." Think of another well-known moment in history when a person/people tried to "correct" it. What actions did they take/are they taking to "correct" history? Include what happened in the first place that needed "correcting."
3. If you were to witness an injustice happening to a friend, what would you do to correct it? Compare your actions to those of Alfred Rascon's friends.