Teacher Guide to Student Worksheet 4: Pennsylvania Railroad War Memorial

- 1. What are the figures featured in this sculpture?

 Angel and fallen soldier (former PRR employee)
- 2. Where is the monument located? 30^{th} Street Station in Philadelphia
- 3. What action is being played out by these figures?

 The angel is lifting up the fallen man. From the title, "Angel of Resurrection," the man is being resurrected.
- 4. What is the situation/setting for this action?

 The statue does not give a lot of contextual clues. Based on prior knowledge and the etching of the war helmets on the base I would say: This man was a railroad employee who lost his life as a soldier during World War II.
- 5. What message do you think the sculptor and the PRR intended?

 I think PRR was trying to show the public the sacrifice and service it (and its employees) rendered to the country, and at the same time honor those fallen service men.
- 6. What message do you take from this sculpture?

I interpret this sculpture in two ways:

Promotional message for PRR: Look at the ultimate service we provided the country.

Healing message to the public: Those who served in the war and gave their life will be looked upon favorably by God and ultimately lifted up to heaven. (The way in which the man is being held by the angel--his head to the side, body straight—could allude to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.)

7. In what ways are the two messages alike? How do they differ? Why?

In my interpretation, both messages show the service of the soldier. They differ in intent. One uses it for self promotion, the other for national healing.