

Teacher Guide to Worksheet 3 –Field Where Reynolds Fell

1. Alexander Gardner clearly aligns himself with the Union army in this text. How does he do this?

He uses the possessive pronoun “our” –“our own men.”

2. Name three other ways Gardner shows his Union sympathies.
 1. He proudly describes the capturing of the Confederate army.
 2. In his description of the Union soldiers’ faces, he paints mostly calm, peaceful, happy (even heavenly) expressions. He even goes so far as to almost bring them back to life.
 3. He gives Reynolds—the Union General--honor by being engaged in important work when he meets his death.

3. Who are the dead soldiers pictured (Union or Confederate)?

They are Union soldiers.

4. What is Gardner’s underlying message from the photograph and text?

Our men are fighting valiantly/War is costly.

5. According to research by William Frassanito, Reynolds did not fall in the area pictured in the photograph. The two photographs and their accompanying text are featured on the Library of Congress web page entitled, “Does the Camera Ever Lie?” How would you answer that question? Explain/defend your answer.

Cameras don’t “lie,” but people do. Photographers can manipulate their subject matter to elicit a certain emotional response. They can use the camera (shot angle, perspective, lighting, clarity, etc.) to help produce a photograph for their purpose. Gardner clearly shows he is not above using a photograph or lying with coinciding textual information to get his message or perspective across. From exploring his photographs and writings, he detests the costliness and horrors of war despite his allegiance to the Union cause.