

Teacher Guide to Worksheet 2-A *Harvest of Death*
Accompanying Text from *Gardner's Photographic Sketch Book of the War*

1. How does the title itself work to convey Alexander Gardner's outlook of war?

The title conveys a sense of "fruitlessness" or futility in war. Usually, when you think of "harvest," it has a positive association of abundance and of seeing one's labor pay off. A harvest of death, however, has no such connotation. The juxtaposition of "harvest" and "death" has a shocking, poetic, and gruesome effect.

2. What is the "moral" of the picture according to Gardner?
"It shows the blank horror and reality of war, in opposition to its pageantry." He hopes in showing the "dreadful details" it will prevent war from occurring again.

3. Isolate and list words that Gardner enlists to strongly communicate his moral.

Some vocabulary students may include:

devilish, torn soldiers, shattered bodies, ghastly, frantic, wicked strife, horror, dreadful, strewed, distorted, calamity, savage wantonness of fiends.

4. In describing the photograph, who are the dead soldiers—Union or Confederate? How were they killed?

They are Confederates who were killed trying to break the lines of the Union soldiers.

5. Using information previously learned from this lesson, what "lie" does the camera tell? Or rather, what lie does the camera catch Gardner in?

At least one of the dead soldiers must be Union, since the diamond on the jacket lying next to him is only worn by a Union corps.

(According to the studies of William Frassanito, these five men are Union soldiers.)

- 6. Does Gardner betray his allegiance in his text? If so, how?
Yes. He mentions Union motives as superior. He also describes the Confederates dying nameless and far from home and contributes this as “the price of their treason.”**