

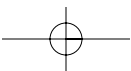
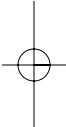
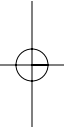
A Reader's Guide

FATHER, SOLDIER, SON

NATHANIEL TRIPP

STEERFORTH PRESS

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❖ *Questions for Discussion* ❖

1. What does Nathaniel Tripp mean when he writes that “In Vietnam fathers and sons had turned against one another.”

2. Tripp went from being a boy who had no relations with men to a platoon leader that “loved his men” and was at ease in the company of men. Do you think his personal history drew him to the army? In what ways do you think his leadership style reflected his upbringing? Do you think his background helped or hindered his development and effectiveness as a soldier?

3. Discuss Tripp’s loyalty to the Mike Division.

4. Tripp repeatedly mentions the guilt he felt throughout his life; whether pertaining to his relationship with his father or his relationship with his sons. Where do you think this comes from and why? Compare Tripp’s feelings with how you think his father felt about abandoning his family.

5. Throughout the book Tripp expresses the idea a father should be “loyal and strong.” Are these characteristics that would rank high on your list for what’s important in a father?

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6. Tripp took the position as a platoon leader that he couldn't ask his men to do things he didn't have the courage to do. How much do you think this was a reflection of his conclusion that the Vietnam War was wrong, and how much do you think this was a reflection of not wanting to let his men down the way his father let him down?

7. It became clear to the soldiers while they were in Vietnam that the public had turned against the war. How do think that affected the soldiers' strength and courage? How do you think the media contributed to the soldier's homecoming, or lack thereof?

8. What do you think of Tripp's conclusions about America's involvement in Vietnam?

