



Readers' Theater



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The Vietnam Veterans Memorial



GRL: K
DRA: 20

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Each reader's part is highlighted in color.

List of Characters

(in order of appearance)

Group 1: Green

Group 2: Blue

Group 3: Orange

All: Red

Maya Lin: Purple

When the characters speak in unison,
it is noted as **All**.



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Group 1: War is always sad. But monuments help people honor and remember the soldiers.

Group 2: If you ever visit Washington, D.C., you can see Maya Lin's special wall.

All: Thank you, Maya Lin, for helping us honor and remember the soldiers.



The Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Group 1: Many years ago, the United States fought a war in a country in Southeast Asia called Vietnam.

Group 2: It was the longest war in U.S. history.

Group 3: More than 2,000,000 American soldiers served in Vietnam from 1955 to 1975. Nearly 60,000 of them died. Thousands were missing in action.



Group 1: Some people were against the war. Many people were sad.

Group 2: A group of veterans had an idea.

All: Let's honor and remember the soldiers. Let's build a monument.



Group 1: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated on November 13, 1982. Thousands of Vietnam veterans were in Washington, D.C., for the weeklong celebrations.

Group 2: From that day on, people come to walk along the wall. Families and friends look for the names of their loved ones.

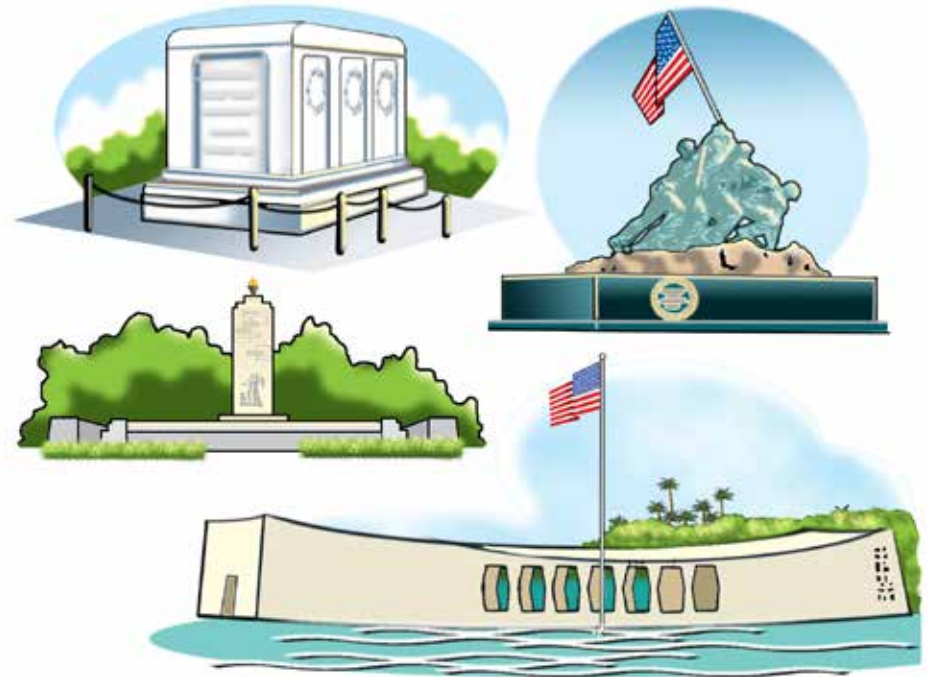
Group 3: They touch the names with their hands. They take pictures. They make tracings. They leave flowers and other presents. They see themselves in the shiny black stone.

All: Let's honor and remember the soldiers.

Group 3: What kind of monument should it be?

Group 1: How should it look?

Group 2: Should it be a statue? Should it have a flag? What should it say?



Group 1: The veterans wanted to have a contest. They wanted to see who could come up with the best idea for a monument.

Group 2: More than 1,400 artists and designers sent in their ideas.

Group 3: One of them was a young college student named Maya Lin. She was only 21 years old.



Group 1: Maya Lin sent in her idea and drawings. Then she waited to learn the results of the contest.

Group 2: Maya Lin's simple design won.

Group 3: But some people didn't like her idea. They didn't think her design looked like a monument.

Group 1: There were no statues. There were no flags. There were no special words.

Group 2: Maya Lin knew her design was special. She explained her idea to anyone who would listen.

Group 3: Little by little, people understood Maya Lin's plan for a wall dug into the ground.

Maya Lin: This simple memorial will honor and remember the soldiers who died in Vietnam.

Group 1: Maya Lin went to Washington, D.C., to visit the site set aside for the monument.

Maya Lin: I saw the site. I thought about war. I thought about what loss is.

Group 2: Then Maya Lin got an idea.

All: Let's honor and remember the soldiers.



Group 1: She began to draw. It took her only three weeks to complete her design.

Group 2: Her idea was to cut open the earth and build a wall. The wall would look like a big V. It would be made out of shiny black stone.

Maya Lin: The stone will shine like a mirror. People will walk along the wall. They will see the names of the soldiers who died in the war carved into the stone. They will see themselves.

All: Let's honor and remember the soldiers.

