

# A father and a son

Anticipate a-What is a « Marine » ? Brainstorm ideas about the personality of an « ex-Marine »

b-Read the text. Write down what you have learned about the narrator's father : \_\_\_\_\_

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c-Why is this episode important for the narrator ? Compare his ideas before and after this moment.

*At first, he thought that... / Later(then), he realized...*

d-What questions would the narrator like to ask his father ?

I watched my father thumb through the pages. It was obvious that he loved that book. And because of that book, I learned something new about my father. He'd studied art before he joined the Marines. That seemed not to fit with the picture I had of my father. But I liked the idea.

One evening, when he was looking through the book, he called me over. "Look at this," he said, "It's a mural by Orozco."

I stared at the reproduced mural in the book—but was more interested in his finger as he tapped the book with approval. That finger had pulled a trigger in a war. That finger had touched my mother in tender ways I did not fully comprehend. I wanted to talk to say something, to ask questions. But I couldn't. All the words were stuck in my throat. So I just nodded.

I'd never thought of my father as the kind of man who understood art. I guess I saw him as an ex-Marine who became a mailman after he came home from Vietnam. An ex-Marine mailman who didn't like to talk much.

I could have asked my father lots of questions. I could have. But there was something in his face and eyes and in his crooked smile that prevented me from asking. I guess I didn't believe he wanted me to know who he was. So I just collected clues. Watching my father read that book was another clue in my collection. Some day all the clues would come together. And I would solve the mystery of my father.

***Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe***

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**Worksheet READING**

**Grade 10 / Axe : Vivre entre générations**

***Family Matters !***