

1. On the poem, "Ashbah": Some cultures believe a soul wanders after death until it finds peace. Why do you think Turner uses this motif in the poem? What implications does he make about Iraqi dead?
2. On the poem, "Najaf, 1820": What does the poem suggest about historical cycles of violence?
3. On the poem, "Eulogy": Why does the colonel choose to omit Private Miller's name from his list of "those we left behind"? What do you think Turner's poem does to address this omission?
4. How does "What Every Soldier Should Know" comment on the nature of the war in Iraq?
5. "MILH": How does this poem reflect "the struggle to preserve something of value from what seems to be the inexorable pull of loss"? How does Turner's work as a writer reflect this same struggle?
6. "AB Negative (The Surgeon's Poem)": What details draw you into the experience? What offense could a friend or family member take to Turner's account of "Thalia Fields" death?
7. Which poem do you feel best portrays the psychological effects of war on soldiers?
8. Do you think that these poems question how American's get information about the war in Iraq? How so?
9. How does the poet address the de-humanizing effects of war? Who suffers most from the process?
10. How do you think Brian Turner defines his role as a soldier poet at war and at home? Why?

Adapted from www.csm.edu