

Worksheet for Analysis of a WWI Letters

JUST THE FACTS

- When were these letters written? How do you know?
- Who is the author of the letters? Who is the recipient? What is their relationship?
- Where is the sender? How long does he expect the war to last?

THE PEOPLE OF THE LETTER

- What do these letters reveal about the writer? How old do you think he is? Why?
- Does the author reveal any personal biases in this letter?
- Do we need additional information about the writer in order to understand the letters?
- Are these love letters? Support your answer with examples from the letters.
- Does the tone of the letters change as time goes on? Explain.

THE HISTORICAL PERIOD OF THE LETTER

- What do the letters reveal about the events of the war? What do they not say?
- Why do you feel the writer spends so much time talking about other letters?
- What questions would you like to ask the writer?
- Do you notice any differences in word usage or writing style between these letters and modern correspondence? Are there words or expressions that seem outdated now?

A FEW MORE QUESTIONS

- What was the author's objective in writing these letters?
- How did these letters change or add to your knowledge of this time period or event?

PROJECT AND DISCUSSION IDEAS

- We are hearing only one side of the conversation between these people. Write what you think might be the recipient's response to these letters.
- How can reading letters from another period of history change your understanding of that period?
- Compare the historical or genealogical value of this letters with contemporary forms of correspondence such as telephone conversations, e-mail, and text-messaging. What historical evidence will we leave to help our children and grand-children understand our own lives better?