

## The Artilleryman's Vision/look at this) (page 645)



### Active Reading SkillBuilder

#### Comparing and Contrasting Speakers

In poetry, the speaker is the voice that "talks" to the reader. The speakers in the following two poems have both experienced warfare, yet their experiences and reactions differ in some ways. Read each poem and think about the kind of person the speaker seems to be and the attitude he has toward war. Use the chart below to **compare and contrast the two speakers** and their experiences of war.

Speakers in "The Artilleryman's Vision" and "look at this)"	
Similarities	Differences

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### Literary Analysis SkillBuilder

#### Tone and Diction

**Tone** is the attitude a writer takes toward a subject. One way in which writers create tone is through **diction**, or word choice. Choose the two words from the following list that best describe the tone of each poem: serious, playful, bitter, proud, anxious, shocked, sad. Write these words in the chart below, then record examples of diction from each poem that contribute to each tone you have identified.

"The Artilleryman's Vision"		"look at this)"	
<b>Tone:</b>  <b>Diction:</b>	<b>Tone:</b>  <b>Diction:</b>	<b>Tone:</b>  <b>Diction:</b>	<b>Tone:</b>  <b>Diction:</b>

**The Artilleryman's Vision/look at this) (page 645)****Selection Open-Book Test**

**A.** A writer's diction often helps to reveal his or her tone, or attitude toward the subject. Read the lines from the poems below. Then, write notes describing what those lines mean to you and what they reveal about the tone of each poem. (14 points each)

**1. "The Artilleryman's Vision"**

Lines from Poem	Meaning	Tone
"And bombs bursting in air, and at night the vari-color'd rockets."		

**2. "look at this)"**

Lines from Poem	Meaning	Tone
"i used to "know / him lift the / poor cuss / tenderly this side up handle "with care / fragile / and send him home"		

**B.** Write the letter of the best answer. This exercise is continued on the next page. (8 points each)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. In "The Artilleryman's Vision," the speaker has a vision of
- his sleeping wife.
  - his young child.
  - the battlefield.
  - doctors and nurses.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The artilleryman's vision takes place
- sometime after the war.
  - while he is on leave from the war.
  - when he is an old man.
  - just before he is due to return to the war.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The tone of "look at this)" can **best** be described as
- hopeless and terror-stricken.
  - proud and patriotic.
  - lighthearted and amusing.
  - sarcastic and bitter.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. In "look at this)," the man who died was
- unknown to the speaker.
  - the speaker's friend.
  - just another soldier.
  - a general in the army.

**C.** Answer **one** of the following questions based on your understanding of these two poems. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

1. What message does the poet express in "look at this)"? What do you think might be Cummings's purpose for writing this poem? Use details from the poem to support your opinion.
2. The speakers in both poems describe experiences they had in war. What is the difference in tone between the two poems? Use details from the poems to support your opinion.

**D. Linking Literature to Life.** Answer the following question based on your own experience and knowledge. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

Which poem do you think comes closer to describing what war might be like? Do you think a soldier might understand and agree with the ideas expressed in one or both poems? Explain.