**Letter 5 Instructions**

Write a letter to Ma about stating your position (stand) about the war. Support your position by giving two reasons and examples to support those reasons. This letter should consist of at least 3-4 paragraphs.

**Notes for Letter #5: Chapters 9-10**

* **This is Charley’s last battle.**
* **Peeking through the rock wall Charley saw the Rebel cannon being rolled into place.**
* **Despite being gutted and torn apart, they came on and on.**
* **The Rebel and Union troops, both yelling, collided and started hacking and shooting at each other.**
* **Charley's sergeants ordered them to start firing - and to shoot low to take their legs out.**
* **It looked like the Rebels would win the hill.**
* **The Minnesota Volunteers, as ordered by a colonel, made a countercharge.**
* **Charley was hit, and he saw the “red veil” come down over his eyes.**
* **Charley felt he was dead at last.**
* **Charley felt old from too much life, old from seeing too much, old from knowing too much.**
* **Charley felt tired and broken.**
* **He was in constant pain, and couldn’t stop hearing the sounds of war.**
* **He contemplated taking his own life to put an end to his pain and anguish.**

**July 5, 1863**

Dear Ma,

**Paragraph #1:** Hook and position (Position=controlling idea=thesis)

**Paragraph #2-** 1st reason to support Charley’s position with examples from the novel.

**Paragraph #3:** 2nd reason to support Charley’s position with examples from the novel.

**Paragraph #4:** Closing; Restate your (Charley’s) position and reflect

Note: Include two brush strokes and two forms of figurative language must be used. One page in length!

(Closure)

(Signature)

Sample Letter 5

July 5 1863,

Dear Ma,

Abraham Lincoln once stated “War at the best, is terrible, and this war of ours, in its magnitude and in its duration, is one of the most terrible.” He could not be more right. War, a state of armed conflict, is a destructive force that destroys individuals at any age.

First off, war makes people wish they were dead. For example, during our last battle, I was hit so many times I thought I was dead. I was disappointed when I realized I wasn’t. For a moment I thought I was dead at last, and I would no longer have to live through such agony. I felt death was a friend of war not an enemy.

Furthermore, war makes you feel broken and old. Not old as in of old age, but old from too much life, old from seeing too much, old from knowing too much.In my short life I feel as though I have lived a thousand years. I am emotionally tired and broken. I can’t stop the pain, nor can I stop the sounds of war in my head, loud and terrifying. I wish I could erase it all from my head so that I could feel young and restored.

All in all, war destroys lives. No matter what people might say, there is no way you can walk away from war unscathed either physically or emotionally. This war has got the best of me, Ma. I hope it has not gotten the best of you or Orren.

Your son,

C. E. Goddard

Fill-in-the-blank Template for Letter 5

|  |
| --- |
| July 5 1863, |
| Dear Ma, |
| Isaac Asimov claimed that “it is not only the living who are killed in war.” I think he |
| was right. War (insert your position/controlling idea/thesis) . |
| To begin, war (insert reason 1) . |
| For instance, (insert supporting detail #1) |
|  |
| (Insert supporting detail #2) . |
|  |
| (Insert supporting detail #3) . |
|  |
| In addition, war (insert reason 2) . |
| For instance, (insert supporting detail #1) |
|  |
| (Insert supporting detail #2) . |
|  |
| (Insert supporting detail #3) . |
|  |
| In the end, war (restate your position using different words) |
|  |
| (Insert final reflection or thoughts about war) |
|  |
| Your son, |
| C. E. Goddard |