

AMERICAN SNIPER

1. Watch the trailer (Speaking)

- What do you see in the trailer?
- Does Kyle get permission to shoot the man?
- What about the woman and the child?
- What comes to his mind in this situation?
- Which part of the book does it remind you of?

I looked through the scope of the sniper rifle, scanning down the road of the tiny Iraqi town. Fifty yards away, a woman opened the door of a small house and stepped outside with her child.

The rest of the street was deserted. The local Iraqis had gone inside, most of them scared. A few curious souls peeked out from behind curtains, waiting. They could hear the rumble of the approaching American unit. The Marines were flooding up the road, marching north to liberate the country from Saddam Hussein

It was my job to protect them. My platoon had taken over the building earlier in the day, sneaking into position to provide “overwatch”—prevent the enemy from ambushing the Marines as they came through.

It didn't seem like too difficult a task—if anything, I was glad the Marines were on my side. I'd seen the power of their weapons and I would've hated to have to fight them. The Iraq army didn't stand a chance. And, in fact, they appeared to have abandoned the area already.

The war had started roughly two weeks before. My platoon, “Charlie” (later “Cadillac”) of SEAL Team 3, helped kick it off during the early morning of March 20. We landed on al-Faw Peninsula and secured the oil terminal there so Saddam couldn't set it ablaze as he had during the First Gulf War. Now we were tasked to assist the Marines as they marched north toward Baghdad.

I was a SEAL, a Navy commando trained in special operations. SEAL stands for “SEa, Air, Land,” and it pretty much describes the wide ranges of places we operate. In this case, we were far inland, much farther than SEALs traditionally operated, though as the war against terror continued, this would become common. I'd spent nearly three years training and learning how to become a warrior; I was ready for this fight, or at least as ready as anyone can be.

2. Find words in the text that mean the following:

- a device you look through to see something that is difficult to see directly
- to look while trying to avoid being seen
- to suddenly attack someone after hiding and waiting for them

3. How would you describe Kyle (from what you've seen in the trailer and read here, or if you've already read all the chapters?) Try to describe him in 3 lines.

4. What do you know about the “war against terror” that is mentioned in the last paragraph?

5. Complete the following paragraph with the word that corresponds from the ones in the box.

Sniper Rundown Shake troops patrol stench
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The rifle I was holding was a .300 WinMag, a bolt-action, precision _____ weapon that belonged to my platoon chief. He'd been covering the street for a while and needed a break. He showed a great deal of confidence in me by choosing me to spot him and take the gun. I was still a new guy, a newbie or rookie in the Teams. By SEAL standards, I had yet to be fully tested.

I was also not yet trained as a SEAL sniper. I wanted to be one in the worst way, but I had a long way to go. Giving me the rifle that morning was the chief's way of testing me to see if I had the right stuff.

We were on the roof of an old _____ building at the edge of a town the Marines were going to pass through. The wind kicked dirt and papers across the battered road below us. The place smelled like a sewer—the _____ of Iraq was one thing I'd never get used to.

"Marines are coming," said my chief as the building began to _____. "Keep watching."

I looked through the scope. The only people who were moving were the woman and maybe a child or two nearby.

I watched our _____ pull up. Ten young, proud Marines in uniform got out of their vehicles and gathered for a foot _____. As the Americans organized, the woman took something from beneath her clothes, and yanked at it.