Heartbreak: Comparing Experiences in the Korean War

About This Lesson
Students will be given a short PowerPoint lecture on the basics of the Korean War and will use personal stories/primary accounts to develop an answer to the question of, “How did Korean War affect the soldiers, mentally and/or physically?”

Grade Level
9-12

Time
1-2 45-minute class periods

Resources
-Korean War PP (brief overview/summary of causes, events, and outcomes)
-Wisconsin Korean War Stories: Veterans Tell Their Stories of the Forgotten War, by Sarah A. Larsen and Jennifer M. Miller

Standards (Wisconsin Standards for Social Studies, (Madison: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2018)
- Analyze how the historical context (situation) influences a primary or secondary source.
- Analyze the intended purpose of a specific primary or secondary source.

Evaluate how different groups and individuals contributed to the event or cause and/or effect.

Lesson
1. Begin by giving a brief PowerPoint on the Korean War

2. Either as a class, or individually, read p. 102-104, “Heartbreak,” from the WI Korean War Stories

3. Randomly assign students a persona story from the chapter (they vary in length from 1 to several paragraphs, so it will be easy to differentiate based on reading abilities)
   - Students should jot down or highlight key points from their assigned story

4. Put students in groups of 4 or 5 to share the details of their story with their group
   a. In their groups, they should brainstorm ideas, concepts, and messages that relate to the question, “How did Korean War affect the soldiers, mentally and/or physically?”
   b. Discuss the writing format you will use. Choices are:
i. Poem
ii. Speech
iii. Sermon
iv. Letter to the editor
v. Diary entry
c. Discuss the audience you will address: who is going to read/hear your opinion?
d. ON YOUR OWN, write based on your perspective.
e. When everyone is finished, read your piece to the group.

5. Each group will select its most interesting and thoughtful product to share with the class.
6. Closure: Discuss as a large class what was most surprising, intriguing, upsetting, etc. about the soldier’s accounts.