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Slaughterhouse five ptsd quotes

Quote: “The nicest veterans in Schenectady, I thought, the kindest and funniest ones, the ones who hated war the most, were the ones who’d really fought.” (Chapter 1). Analysis: Slaughterhouse Five is an anti-war book. Who better to understand the horrors of war than those who fought in it. Quote: “God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom always to tell the difference.” Among the things Billy Pilgrim could not change were the past, the present, and the future." (Chapter 3). Analysis: This quote provides an excellent example of meiosis, or deliberate understatement. Billy has no control over anything that happens in his life and he has accepted it. Quote: “I am a Tralfamadorian, seeing all time as you might see a stretch of the Rocky Mountains. All time is all time. It does not change. It does not lend itself to warnings or explanations. It simply is.” (Chapter 4). Analysis: Billy, unable to confront the atrocities he has experienced, resigns himself to the Tralfamadorian philosophy that he has no control over his life and creates a make believe escape through the novels of Kilgore Trout and time-traveling hallucinations (if, in fact, they are hallucinations). Quote: “If what Billy Pilgrim learned from the Tralfamadorians is true, that we will all live forever, no matter how dead we may sometimes seem to be, I am not overjoyed. Still–if I am going to spend eternity visiting this moment and that, I’m grateful that so many of those moments are nice.” (Chapter 10). Analysis: One of many authorial intrusions, Vonnegut interjects that he is not fully convinced that Billy Pilgrim’s time-traveling escapades are true. In fact, he hopes they are not. He does, however, take an optimistic view on the subject and thinks of all the nice moments in his life. Quote: “So they were trying to re-invent themselves and their universe… Science fiction was a big help.” (Chapter 4). Analysis: Billy Pilgrim’s uncontrollable sobbing and erratic sleep patterns, signs of post traumatic stress disorder and common to soldiers, causes him to voluntarily enter a mental hospital in an effort to recognize meaning in his life. He gets that meaning through escapism, inventing an alternative time structure, aided by the literary workings of Kilgore Trout. Quote: “If I hadn’t spent so much time studying Earthlings,” said the Tralfamadorian, “I wouldn’t have any idea what was meant by ‘free will.’ I’ve visited thirty-one inhabited planets in the universe, and I have studied reports on one hundred more. Only on Earth is there any talk of free will.” (Chapter 4). Analysis: In order to escape the horrors of war, Billy Pilgrim creates an alternate Universe where free will does not exist. Everything exists in the moment it was framed and nothing can be done about it. How else could he explain the atrocities he witnesses as a prisoner of war? Be careful not to confuse the Tralfamadorian view of free will with that of the author. Pilgrim, for example, deliberately chooses to make his discovery about the absence of free will public. A clear cause and effect relationship of events is also demonstrated when Billy gets mildly unstuck in time and watches a war movie in reverse, where instead of blowing things up, war planes suck in weapons and make everything better. Quote: “Poo-tee-weet?” (Chapter 10). Analysis: Vonnegut, like Billy, can make no sense of the war. “Poo-tee-weet” is the last word of the novel, the only response to the destruction brought about from the fire bombing of Dresden. Feel free to share your favorite Slaughterhouse Five quotes by commenting below. This post is part of the series: Study Guide for Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut Time travel is of no use on your next class discussion. This study guide is. Slaughterhouse-Five is an anti-war novel by Kurt Vonnegut. The work was first published in 1969, and it's considered an American classic. Semi-autobiographical in nature, the novel is drawn from the Vonnegut's war-time experiences in World War II. As a prisoner of war, Vonnegut survived the American bombing of Dresden, Germany. "And even if the wars didn't keep coming like glaciers, there would still be plain old death."- Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, Chapter 1 "As a trafficker in climaxes and thrills and characterization and wonderful dialogue and suspense and confrontations, I had outlined the Dresden story many times."- Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, Chapter 1 "At that time, they were teaching that there was absolutely no difference between anybody. They may be teaching that still."- Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, Chapter 1 "The nicest veterans in Schenectady, I thought, the kindest and funniest ones, the ones who hated war the most, were the ones who'd really fought."- Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, Chapter 1 "We went to the New York World's Fair, saw what the past had been like, according to the Ford Motor Car Company and Walt Disney, saw what the future would be like, according to General Motors. And I asked myself about the present: how wide it was, how deep it was, how much was mine to keep."- Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, Chapter 1 "He is in a constant state of stage fright, he says, because he never knows what part of his life he is going to have to act in next."- Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, Chapter 2 "All this responsibility at such an early age made her a bitchy flibbertigibbet."- Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, Chapter 2 "They crawled into a forest like the big, unlucky mammals they were."- Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, Chapter 2 "It is, in the imagination of combat's fans, the divinely listless loveplay that follows the orgasm of victory. It is called 'mopping up.'"- Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, Chapter 3 "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to always tell the difference."- Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, Chapter 3 "The legs of those who stood were like fence posts driven into a warm, squirming, farting, sighing earth. The queer earth was a mosaic of sleepers who nestled like spoons."- Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, Chapter 3 "I am a Tralfamadorian, seeing all time as you might see a stretch of the Rocky Mountains. All time is all time. It does not change. It does not lend itself to warnings or explanations. It simply is."- Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, Chapter 4 "My God--what have they done to you, lad? This isn't a man. It's a broken kite."- Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, Chapter 5 "So they were trying to re-invent themselves and their universe… Science fiction was a big help."- Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, Chapter 5 "And on and on it went that duet between the dumb, praying lady and the big, hollow man who was so full of loving echoes."- Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, Chapter 5 "The skyline was intricate and voluptuous and enchanted and absurd. It looked like a Sunday school picture of Heaven to Billy Pilgrim."- Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, Chapter 6 "In my prison cell I sit,/ With my britches full of shit,/ And my balls are bouncing gently on the floor./ And I see the bloody snag/ When she bit me in the bag./ Oh I'll never fuck a Polack any more."- Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, Chapter 7 "There are no characters in this story and almost no dramatic confrontations because most of the people in it are so sick and so much the listless playthings of enormous forces. One of the main effects of war, after all, is that people are discouraged from being characters. But old Derby was a character now."- Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, Chapter 8 "Rumfoord was thinking in in military manner: that an inconvenient person, one whose death he wished for very much, for practical reasons, was suffering from a repulsive disease."- Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, Chapter 9 "The cattle are lowing,/ The Baby awakes./ But the little Lord Jesus/ No crying he makes."- Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, Chapter 9 "Everything is all right, and everybody has to do exactly what he does."- Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, Chapter 9 "If what Billy Pilgrim learned from the Tralfamadorians is true, that we will all live forever, no matter how dead we may sometimes seem to be, I am not overjoyed. Still--if I am going to spend eternity visiting this moment and that, I'm grateful that so many of those moments are nice."- Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five, Chapter 10 Billy Pilgrim, while not the narrator of Slaughterhouse Five, is the main “character”. Character is used loosely when describing Billy because he doesn’t choose what happens to him throughout the entire book. He is forced to watch horrific events unfold because he is too weak to be active. Billy Pilgrim has suffered a lot in the book and has flashbacks, that is described as becoming unstuck in time. This feeling of being unstuck in time seems to be caused by PTSD and schizophrenia. Billy Pilgrim describes his flashbacks as “being unstuck in time”. He could jump from any memory to any memory. Ironically, the jumping mostly happened when he was near death behind enemy line. It was at this point that he would jump backward or forward. It seems …show more content… He has nightmares, which come out during the train ride to the POW camp. Everyone pushes him away when he tries to sleep because he whimpers and kicks. In chapter 3, when a siren goes off he jumps and expects World War 3 to break out. It’s not just these two signs that appear to show us Billy suffers from PTSD. The entire book is based on flashbacks to horrific past experiences. His flashbacks started after a plane crash where only he survived. This developed to PTSD which escalated more during war. He had gone through multiple traumatic experiences in his life; from nearly drowning as a child to the plane crash to losing his parents and wife to war. It made sense that he would suffer from PTSD. During a time that he needed to forget where he was and what was going on around him he had flashbacks, however most the time they were to other terrible …show more content… He was abducted by green aliens who brought him to a planet where time didn’t exist. “It can’t be detected from Earth” Billy explains in the book. This book is nonfiction which means that this planet could really exist in the book, however it could also be an indication that he has schizophrenia. Schizophrenia is an illness that makes it difficult to tell the difference between real and unreal experiences. To these people unreal experiences can trigger real emotions and response to situations. The first line of the book is the main indicator that Billy suffers from this mental disorder, “All this happened, more or less.”. Vonnegut is entertaining the readers to decide for themselves which events are real and unreal. Vonnegut even mentions schizophrenia in the beginning of the book, “This is a novel somewhat in the telegraphic schizophrenia manner of tales of the planet Traflamadore, where the flying saucers came from.”. When he his hospitalized in a mental institution, they claim he is there because he nearly drowned at a YMCA when his father just threw him in the pool. Scientists say that schizophrenia is usually developed/triggered with a negative childhood experience, such as Billy’s near drowning experience. Schizophrenia appears predominantly during depressing or terrible catastrophes. It is always during those times that he becomes unstuck in time. There is one last indication of Slaughterhouse-Five Quotes Showing 1-30 of 789 “And Lot's wife, of course, was told not to look back where all those people and their homes had been. But she did look back, and I love her for that, because it was so human. So she was turned into a pillar of salt. So it goes.” — Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five “America is the wealthiest nation on Earth, but its people are mainly poor, and poor Americans are urged to hate themselves. To quote the American humorist Kin Hubbard, 'It ain’t no disgrace to be poor, but it might as well be.' It is in fact a crime for an American to be poor, even though America is a nation of poor. Every other nation has folk traditions of men who were poor but extremely wise and virtuous, and therefore more estimable than anyone with power and gold. No such tales are told by the American poor. They mock themselves and glorify their betters. The meanest eating or drinking establishment, owned by a man who is himself poor, is very likely to have a sign on its wall asking this cruel question: 'if you’re so smart, why ain’t you rich?' There will also be an American flag no larger than a child’s hand – glued to a lollipop stick and flying from the cash register.Americans, like human beings everywhere, believe many things that are obviously untrue. Their most destructive untruth is that it is very easy for any American to make money. They will not acknowledge how in fact hard money is to come by, and, therefore, those who have no money blame and blame themselves. This inward blame has been a treasure for the rich and powerful, who have had to do less for their poor, publicly and privately, than any other ruling class since, say Napoleonic times. Many novelties have come from America. The most startling of these, a thing without precedent, is a mass of undignified poor. They do not love one another because they do not love themselves.” — Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five “Like so many Americans, she was trying to construct a life that made sense from things she found in gift shops.” — Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five “- Why me?- That is a very Earthling question to ask, Mr. Pilgrim. Why you? Why us for that matter? Why anything? Because this moment simply is. Have you ever seen bugs trapped in amber?- Yes.- Well, here we are, Mr. Pilgrim, trapped in the amber of this moment. There is no why.” — Kurt Vonnegut Jr., Slaughterhouse-Five “There is no beginning, no middle, no end, no suspense, no moral, no causes, no effects. What we love in our books are the depths of many marvelous moments seen all at one time.” — Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five “The nicest veterans...the kindest and funniest ones, the ones who hated war the most, were the ones who'd really fought.” — Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five “That's one thing Earthlings might learn to do, if they tried hard enough: Ignore the awful times and concentrate on the good ones.” — Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five “Trout, incidentally, had written a book about a money tree. It had twenty-dollar bills for leaves. Its flowers were government bonds. Its fruit was diamonds. It attracted human beings who killed each other around the roots and made very good fertilizer.” — Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five “It was a movie about American bombers in World War II and the gallant men who flew them. Seen backwards by Billy, the story went like this: American planes, full of holes and wounded men and corpses took off backwards from an airfield in England. Over France, a few German fighter planes flew at them backwards, sucked bullets and shell fragments from some of the planes and crewmen. They did the same for wrecked American bombers on the ground, and those planes flew up backwards to join the formation.The formation flew backwards over a German city that was in flames. The bombers opened their bomb bay doors, exerted a miraculous magnetism which shrunk the fires, gathered them into cylindrical steel containers , and lifted the containers into the bellies of the planes. The containers were stored neatly in racks. The Germans below had miraculous devices of their own, which were long steel tubes. They used them to suck more fragments from the crewmen and planes. But there were still a few wounded Americans though and some of the bombers were in bad repair. Over France though, German fighters came up again, made everything and everybody as good as new.When the bombers got back to their base, the steel cylinders were taken from the racks and shipped back to the United States of America, where factories were operating night and day, dismantling the cylinders, separating the dangerous contents into minerals. Touchingly, it was mainly women who did this work. The minerals were then shipped to specialists in remote areas. It was their business to put them into the ground, to hide them cleverly, so they would never hurt anybody ever again.” — Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five “It is just an illusion here on Earth that one moment follows another one, like beads on a string, and that once a moment is gone, it is gone forever.” — Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five “I think you guys are going to have to come up with a lot of wonderful new lies, or people just aren't going to want to go on living.” — Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five “If I am going to spend eternity visiting this moment and that, I'm grateful that so many of those moments are nice.” — Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five “The letter said that they were two feet high, and green, and shaped like plumber's friends. Their suction cups were on the ground, and their shafts, which were extremely flexible, usually pointed to the sky. At the top of each shaft was a little hand with a green eye in its palm. The creatures were friendly, and they could see in four dimensions. They pitied Earthlings for being able to see only three. They had many wonderful things to teach Earthlings, especially about time. Billy promised to tell what some of those wonderful things were in his next letter.Billy was working on his second letter when the first letter was published. The second letter started out like this:The most important thing I learned on Tralfamadore was that when a person dies he only appears to die. He is still very much alive in the past, so it is very silly for people to cry at his funeral. All moments, past, present and future, always have existed, always will exist. The Tralfamadorians can look at all the different moments just that way we can look at a stretch of the Rocky Mountains, for instance. They can see how permanent all the moments are, and they can look at any moment that interests them. It is just an illusion we have here on Earth that one moment follows another one, like beads on a string, and that once a moment is gone it is gone forever.When a Tralfamadorian sees a corpse, all he thinks is that the dead person is in a bad condition in that particular moment, but that the same person is just fine in plenty of other moments. Now, when I myself hear that somebody is dead, I simply shrug and say what the Tralfamadorians say about dead people, which is "so it goes.” — Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five “All time is all time. It does not change. It does not lend itself to warnings or explanations. It simply is. Take it moment by moment, and you will find that we are all, as I've said before, bugs in amber.” — Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five “There are almost no characters in this story, and almost no dramatic confrontations, because most of the people in it are so sick and so much the listless playthings of enormous forces. One of the main effects of war, after all, is that people are discouraged from being characters.” — Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse Five “It is so short and jumbled and jangled, Sam, because there is nothing intelligent to say about a massacre. Everybody is supposed to be dead, to never say anything or want anything ever again. Everything is supposed to be very quiet after a massacre, and it always is, except for the birds. And what do the birds say? All there is to say about a massacre, things like "Poo-tee-weet?” — Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five “But she did look back, and I love her for that, because it was so human. So she was turned to a pillar of salt. So it goes. People aren't supposed to look back. I'm certainly not going to do it anymore.” — Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five “I have told my sons that they are not under any circumstances to take part in massacres, and that the news of massacres of enemies is not to fill them with satisfaction or glee. I have also told them not to work for companies which make massacre machinery, and to express contempt for people who think we need machinery like that.” — Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse-Five

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