

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



DUE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Viewing Guide for:  
***The Pacific: Part 10***

**Introduction:** The HBO miniseries, *The Pacific*, focuses on the United States Marine Corps' actions in the Pacific Theater of Operations within the wider Pacific War. *The Pacific* centers on the experiences of three Marines (Eugene Sledge, Robert Leckie and John Basilone) who were all in different regiments of the 1st Marine Division. The primary source materials for the miniseries are the war memoirs of Leckie and Sledge.

- ❑ *Helmet for My Pillow* by Robert Leckie
- ❑ *With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa* by Eugene Sledge

**Why We Are Watching:** The experience of total war profoundly affected Americans and American society. The end of the war posed major challenges as the nation worked to adjust to peacetime. This episode focuses on the experiences of a few individuals as they attempt to return to civilian life.

<b>Character Summaries for Episode 10</b>	
<p><b>Robert Leckie</b> (James Badge Dale)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ A journalist before the war, Leckie returns to his parents' home in New Jersey. Despite some awkwardness reuniting with his family, Leckie is ultimately able to translate his war experience into confidence and courage that serve him well in civilian life.</li></ul>	
<p><b>Eugene Sledge</b> (Joseph Mazzello)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ The son of a doctor who cared for WWI veterans, Eugene Sledge was initially prohibited by his father from enlisting. Eventually joining the war effort, Sledge saw horrifying action at the bloody battles of Peleliu and Okinawa. In episode 10, he returns to his home in Alabama but has a great deal of trouble coping with his war trauma and survivor's guilt.</li></ul>	
<p><b>John Basilone</b> (John Seda)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ John Basilone was a true blue American war hero. Basilone received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroism during the Guadalcanal campaign in 1942. He was subsequently sent back to the states to leverage his heroism and travel the country sell war bonds. Dissatisfied with this duty, he requests and is ultimately granted a return to combat duty. He was killed on the first day of the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945. As a result, Basilone does not appear in episode 10. However, while on tour selling bonds, Basilone met and married before he returned to combat duty. In episode 10, Basilone's widow travels to his hometown in New Jersey to meet his family for the first time.</li></ul>	