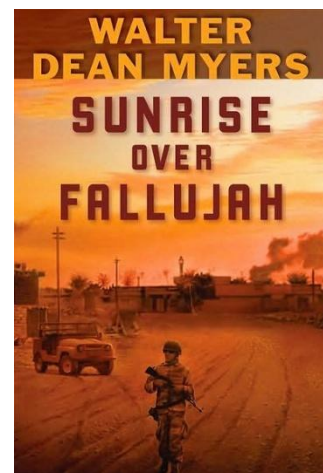




### *Sunrise Over Fallujah* Discussion Questions

1. Why did Robin decide to join the army instead of going to college?
2. Why do you think Robin was able to write his most honest letters to his Uncle Richie? How do his descriptions of the war differ between his letters to his mother and his letters to Uncle Richie? Why doesn't he write his father directly?
3. Do you think Robin, Jonsey and Marla Kennedy would have become friends if they weren't in the war together? Do you think they will stay in touch when they get back home?
4. How does heroism manifest itself in this story? Which of the characters do you think is a hero?
5. How safe is the "green zone" in Baghdad? How do conditions in the green zone compare to conditions in the villages Robin and his unit visit in the Iraqi countryside?
6. How does the roadside attack change Robin's perception of the war? How does it affect his unit?
7. How did the media presentation of the events in Iraq differ from Robin's experience on the front lines? Are the stories on the evening news an honest depiction of the soldiers' experiences in Iraq?
8. As the war progresses, Robin says, "The thing was that killing was taking on a different meaning to me...now I was willing to kill because I was afraid of being killed..." Is killing justified when it is in self-defense?
9. Do you think Robin's unit accomplished its mission of fostering goodwill with the Iraqi people?
10. What do you think of the psychological tactics used by the Psy Ops Unit? Is it acceptable to use tactics such as staging a kidnapping so that the safe return of the kidnap victims can be used as a bargaining chip to accomplish a goal?



## About the Author

New York Times bestseller Walter Dean Myers is the critically acclaimed author of more than 85 books for children and young adults. His award-winning body of work includes *Fallen Angels*, *Monster*, *Somewhere in the Darkness*, *Slam!*, *Jazz*, and *Harlem*, amongst many more. He has received two Newbery Honors and five Coretta Scott King Awards. He is the winner of the first Michael L. Printz Award as well as the first recipient of Kent State University's Virginia Hamilton Literary Award.

Walter began writing at an early age. "I was a good student, but a speech impediment was causing problems. "One of my teachers decided that I couldn't pronounce certain words at all. She thought that if I wrote something, I would use words I could pronounce. I began writing little poems. I began to write short stories, too."

Realizing that his family would not be able to afford college, Walter joined the Army on his seventeenth birthday. When he got out three years later, he worked various jobs and he wrote at night. "I wrote for magazines," says Walter. "I wrote adventure stuff, I wrote for the National Enquirer, I wrote advertising copy for cemeteries." A winning contest entry with the Council on Interracial Books for Children became his first book, *Where Does the Day Go?* Later, he wrote his first young adult novel, *Fast Sam, Cool Clyde, and Stuff*.

"I so love writing," says Walter. It is not something that I am doing just for a living, this is something that I love to do. When I work, what I'll do is outline the story first. That forces me to do the thinking. I cut out pictures of all my characters and my wife puts them into a collage, which goes on the wall above the computer. When I walk into that room, I see the characters, and I just get very close to them. I rush through a first draft, and then I go back and rewrite, because I can usually see what the problems are going to be ahead of me. Rewriting is a lot more fun for me than the writing is."

