

NAME: _____

DUE DATE: _____








Viewing Guide for:

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN

Introduction: *Saving Private Ryan* is a fictional story set during the World War II. The time period covered in the film is only a few days in early June 1944. (The film begins and ends with scenes set in a military cemetery in modern day France.) The premise of the film is that a squad of US soldiers (8 men) is sent on a very dangerous mission to find Private James Francis Ryan. Private Ryan is an American soldier whose three other brothers have all been killed in combat.

Characters:

- Captain John Miller (Tom Hanks)—Commanding officer w/ mysterious past
- Sergeant Mike Horvath (Tom Sizemore)—Gritty wizened sergeant
- Corporal Upham (Jeremy Davies)—Translator; young, inexperienced, naïve, outsider
- Specialist Wade (Giovanni Ribisi)—medic
- Private Reiben (Edward Burns)—tough Brooklynite, battle-hardened, cynical
- Private Jackson (Barry Pepper)—sniper; rural, religious
- Private Mellish (Adam Goldberg)—Jewish, battle-hardened
- Private Caparzo (Vin Diesel)—battle hardened but with soft side
- Private Ryan (Matt Damon)—airborne; sole surviving brother of 4

United States Army Ranks during World War 2 (abridged)		Insignia
General	Commissioned Officers	★ TO ★★★★★★
Colonel		
Major		
Captain		
Lieutenant		
Sergeant	Non-Commissioned Officers (noncoms)	
Corporal		
Private		

Questions

1. Describe the landing at Omaha Beach.
2. What would motivate the soldiers to fight under such conditions?
3. Is the plan to save Ryan realistic? Would the military have supported such a mission? Explain.
4. What do the soldiers think of the plan to save Ryan?
5. What do the soldiers think of the war in general?
6. Evaluate the decision Captain Miller made to stop the mission and attack the Germans.
7. What do you learn about Captain Miller?

