

Bailey Burnell

EN20F

November 20, 2018

Ms. Smith ✓

The Positive and Negative Impact of Friends on Erik Brandt's Life ✓

The relationships someone has can change who they are as a person. In the novel *Soldier X* by Don Wulffson, it tells the story of the war through a soldier's eyes. The soldier, Erik Brandt, is sent to fight for Germany at the age of 15. On the battlefield he makes and loses friends, and along the way he makes a love interest. In this novel Erik's relationships with his friends, and his lover will have a positive and negative impact on his life. ✓

Erik's friends have a positive impact on his life. On the train to the front Erik makes friends with a boy named Jakob, "Sitting next to me was a freckle-faced boy named Jakob." (Wulffson 9) Jakob helps Erik calm down before getting into the front. When Jakob and Erik get onto the field they meet Oskar, "A moment later, a tall, gangly boy, who I later would learn was named Oskar, joined Jakob and me." (Wulffson 16) In the novel those three boys become best friends and they help each other through the fighting. Though Erik's friends had a positive impact on his life, they also had a negative impact. ✓

During the fight Erik loses some of his friends and it takes a toll on him. When the Russians attacked, one of Erik's friends, Hals, got hit and passed away, "Blood was spilling from a gash in his deeply dented helmet. His eyes were blank, dotted with mud. I put my arms around him. I sobbed. I screamed his name, shaking him, trying to shake him back to life." (Wulffson 60) When Hals died it hurt Erik so much that it took him out of action, and put his life at risk. When Erik was in the hospital, in Alreni, and it came under attack and Erik lost his friends that he had made, and that causes him become very sad. "Mikhos!" I cried, and for a moment saw him, trapped beneath the blazing, fallen pine, now apart of the flames" (Wulffson 143) Though, through the tough times at the hospital Erik creates an everlasting love with Tamara. ✓

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In the hospital Erik falls for one of the nurses, her name is Tamara. One day when there is nothing going on at the hospital Tamara and Erik step outside to talk. Tamara opens up to Erik about her past, "That's how old I was when the lousy Germans invaded us. And right before that, Papa got in trouble with the Communists again." (Wulffson 128). Here it shows that Tamara is starting to let Erik into her life, and where Erik really starts to fall for Tamara. At the end of the book, after the war, Erik and Tamara get married "My eighteenth birthday and two years after leaving the front, Tamara and I were married." (Wulffson 225). Even after going through everything in the war their love for each other was strong enough to keep them together.

Between all of these events Erik's life was changed dramatically. Meeting Tamara, his life was changed for the better. Tamara helped Erik through the tough times during and after the war. When Hals dies it put Erik's life in danger. If Erik had continued to mourn over Hals on the battlefield he could have died. The relationships that a person has can positively or negatively impact their life.

Works Cited

Wulffson, Don. *Soldier X*. Penguin USA, 2002.

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→ In the hospital Erik falls for one of the nurses, Tamara, and one day Tamara opens up to Erik ^{and talks} about her past "That's how old I was when the lousy Germans invaded us. And right before that, Papa got in trouble with the Communists again."

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The relationships that a person has can positively or negatively impact their life.

→ The relationships ~~are~~ ^{Someone} has can change who they are as a person. In the novel Soldier X by Don Wulfson, it tells the story of war through a soldier's eyes. The soldier, Erik Brandt, is sent to fight at the age of 15 for Germany. On the battlefield he makes and loses friends, and along the way he makes a love interest. In this novel Erik's relationships with his friends and his lover ^{will} have a ~~major~~ negative and positive impact on his life.

→ Erik's friends have a positive impact on his life. On the train to the battlefield Erik makes friends with a boy named Jakob.

"Sitting next to me was a freckle-faced boy named Jakob." (Wulfson 9)

Jakob helps Erik calm down before getting onto the field.

When Jakob and Erik get on to the field they meet Oskar ^{about named}

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