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*Black wall
Tapered at the
Ends
White letters
Spelling names of
Friends*

*Lost lives
Crushed spirits
All
Vietnam
Our generation's
War.*

*You volunteered
For rain-swept
Land
I cried
And failed to
Understand*

*Why fight
This war - it isn't
Ours
Why risk
Your life - it now is
Mine.*

*Orders spared you
From the jungle
War
You did not face
The strife, monsoons and
Gore.*

*We stand now
At this wall of
Pain
Its blackness
Fills me as a
Void*

*Its starkness
Strips me
Raw
I cannot hide
Emotions rising from my
Soul.*

*With salty eyes
We find the names of
Death
We trace white letters
Fallen heroes, finally lifted
Up*

*We weep
But tears are not the
Same*

*You cry
For those who died
I cry
Relieved white letters
Do not spell
Your name.*



Credits:

Poem from "Marriage Is a Balance Beam," a book of poetry by Carole Bos.

Image, of the Vietnam War Memorial—also known, simply, as "The Wall"—by Mario Roverto Durán Ortiz.
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The Wall, which is located in Washington, D.C., was dedicated on November 13, 1982.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Tears>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Tears>

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Tears

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