

Full Metal Jacket (1987)

Questions for Discussion

1. How do we understand the soldiers' transformation? Compare the first scene with one of the last ones.
2. What does it mean to be a marine in the movie?
3. What are the drill instructor's strategies for training the men?
4. Is the drill instructor fair? What do you think about the instructor punishing everyone for Pyle's deficiencies?
5. What do you think about the instructor's following words? "There is no racial bigotry here. I do not look down on niggers, kikes, wops or greasers. Here, you are all equally worthless."
6. What is the relationship of the men with their guns?
7. How is the enemy represented?
8. Describe the relationship between Joker and Pyle.
9. When does Pyle start losing it and why?
10. Discuss the training camp scene as an example of homosocial space and bonding.
11. Can you imagine a similar training camp scene for a second world war movie? Why?