"Drop Your Helmet and Howl" explores a night in the life of two veterans from the War in Afghanistan, Kyle Allen and Peter Watkins. As the two progress through the night, binge drinking as has become their normal routine while living with PTSD, the piece explores moments of their past. They have lost friends, found themselves in firefights both in Afghanistan and on the homefront, and have found themselves involved with all manner of illegal activity as they try to come to terms with what they have seen and what they have done. Most importantly, the piece attempts to grasp what the world looks like through the eyes of these young men, especially as to how they view the War and the public's reception to their service. "Drop Your Helmet and Howl" is a reminder that behind the strained faces of these two soldiers are boys who are still trying to find their place in a world they once found certain, still trying to find home in the city where they grew up.

Attached to this piece is a critical essay exploring the novel *Norwegian Wood* by Haruki Murakami. In the novel, Murakami uses techniques of subversion in order to create a constant sense of uncertainty within the reader. This is done in order to show the effects the traumatic death of the narrator's friend has on characters within the novel. While at first reality seems certain, the literary tropes seem rote, and Japanese society seems firmly entrenched in the east, lines become blurred to the point at which both narrator and reader find themselves reeling as reality as it had been perceived collapses around them.