**Literature of War: World War I and Now**

Class 7: Dialectics

November 27, 2018

**Backtracking and Catching up**

Questions about *The Sympathizer “set-up”*

“*Surviving a Bombing Raid in Syria”* by Martin Nakell, text

***The Sympathizer***

1. ***Time Period of Novel (approximate)***
2. **Life in the U.S. for the refugees:** What is the experience of the characters?
3. **The Film:**
	* 1. Preparations
		2. Filming
		3. Aftermath
		4. Viewing with Bon: his contribution and meaning of film
4. **The Decision to Return to Prepare for a Counter Insurgency**
	* 1. Planning
		2. Disobeying Orders
5. **The Mission and Capture**
6. **First Year in Captivity**
7. **Second Period in Captivity**
8. **Some of the Overall themes**
	* 1. Paradox (simultaneous opposites) abounds
		2. Appearance vs. Reality (Much is not what it seems)
			1. American fault lines in propositions vs reality
		3. Quest for Identity of hybrid (in ideas, individuals, sex, alcohol)
			1. Errors made by those with absolute identity (e.g. his father)
		4. Sympathizing as a gift and a curse
		5. The Fragility / Temporarily of Humanness
		6. “Nothing” as Everything
		7. The aging out of (of convolution of) idealisms
		8. The difficult complexity of refugee life

**OVERVIEW:**

**What commonalities have you noticed in the works?**

**What distinctions have you noticed?**

Margaret Atwood: “The Loneliness of the Military Historian