Guided Annotations

Chapter 1 excerpt from The Devil's Highway by Luis Alberto Urrea

Directions: As you read the text in the left-hand column (or after you have read it once all the way through), respond to the questions and tasks in the right-hand column.

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| Focus Text | Critical Questions & Tasks |
| **Directions for teachers:**  Copy and paste the opening section from Chapter 1 of *The Devil's Highway* by Luis Alberto Urrea (available through the Google Books preview or library).  NOTE: The "opening section" of Chapter 1 is ten paragraphs or roughly the first page or two, depending on what format you're using. It begins with the "Five men stumbled out..." and ends with "Their full-sun 110-degree nightmare." | **Directions for teachers:**  Feel free to use the following questions and tasks in conjunction with the article. Adjust positioning as necessary.  **Rhetorical Choices:** Explain the allusion made to Desolation. What is the rhetorical purpose of this allusion?  **Rhetorical Choices:** Define “writhed” and “eldritch bones.” What do those diction choices reveal about the desert?  **Rhetorical Choices:** In context, the repeated use of “damned” can have a dual meaning. Discuss the dual meaning used here and how that helps support the author’s claim about the desert.  **Rhetorical Choices:** Discuss how the dove imagery supports the author’s claim. |