***‘War Crimes’* Breakdown – Assignment 2**

Theme(s): Good people can be accused of bad things. Real life is not all happy endings and war heroes. The effect of the violence and hardship of war on the soldiers. The importance of staying true to yourself and what you believe. Not letting the opinions of others change your opinion of a friend. The act of completely trusting someone.

Conflict: The military/society against Lieutenant Colonel Michael Harvey and Major William Keen. Major Keen against himself and what he should believe.

Protagonist: Major Keen, motivated by his need to save Lieutenant Colonel Harvey

Antagonist: The judicial system? The nagging thought that maybe Major Keen had been wrong about Lieutenant Colonel Harvey? The higher-ups are trying to resolve the issue quickly by pinning it on someone else.

Act 1: Impossible/rigged mission; army life

Norm: carrying out orders, going on missions

Plot Point 1: All men are killed by chemical weapon; only two that make it back alive are Major William Keen and Lieutenant Colonel Harvey

Act 2: The aftermath of battle

Plot Point 2: Lieutenant Colonel Harvey is accused of treason and a trial is set and in motion

Midpoint: Lieutenant Colonel Harvey is being tried with a General Court Martial; death is the penalty. Major Keen is having a hard time deciding whether to testify for the defense or the prosecution

Healing Process: Major Keen talks to Lieutenant Colonel Harvey and is reassured by what he says (aka, Michael is letting Will make his own decision about him rather than telling him what to believe like everyone else has been doing)

End of Act 2: Major Keen has decided to testify for Lieutenant Colonel Harvey, hoping it will keep him from the death penalty

Act 3: Major Keen testifies to the good character of Lieutenant Colonel Harvey

Plot Point 3: Major Keen is accused of being an accomplice to Lieutenant Colonel Harvey’s crimes and Harvey is found guilty of treason.

End of Act 3: The trial is closed and Harvey is taken away by his guards back to his cell.

Plot Point 4: Will freaks because he thought he had saved the only person he had left only to have him taken away too. He goes after Harvey and attacks the escorts, only to be restrained and also taken to a cell.

Resolution: Harvey and Keen are kept in adjacent cells allowing them to talk to one another. They have a meaningful conversation in which Keen realizes something that probably ties back to the theme. Harvey is executed and Keen is dishonorably discharged from the military.