Summary of *What It Is Like To Go To War*

*I wrote this book primarily to come to terms with my own experience of combat. So far - reading, writing, thinking - that has taken over thirty years.*"

In 1969, roughly six years before the Vietnam conflict would subside, a twenty-three year old, activated lieutenant reservist was plunged into the jungle of Vietnam, in command of a platoon of forty Marines. The lieutenant survived the difficult conflict and spent the last forty years of his life trying to process his combat experience. In *What It Is Like to Go to War*, Karl Marlantes delves into a deeply personal and honest look at his experience and ordeal of combat, examining how we, as a culture, might better prepare our young Marines and soldiers for war. War is as ancient as mankind however, in the past, warriors were often prepared for battle and post-combat reintegration by their cultural and personal rituals, religions, and literature. In a riveting narrative, Marlantes weaves enthralling accounts of his combat experiences with contemplation, thoughtful analysis, and personal readings to prod his readers to think through the ways our culture can support it’s warriors as they process through their post combat psychological and spiritual journey. Marlantes’ book is worth reading, processing and discussing with Marines at every level.