

Upper band, hot summer sky fills the background.

Middle band, standing wheat fills the middle ground.

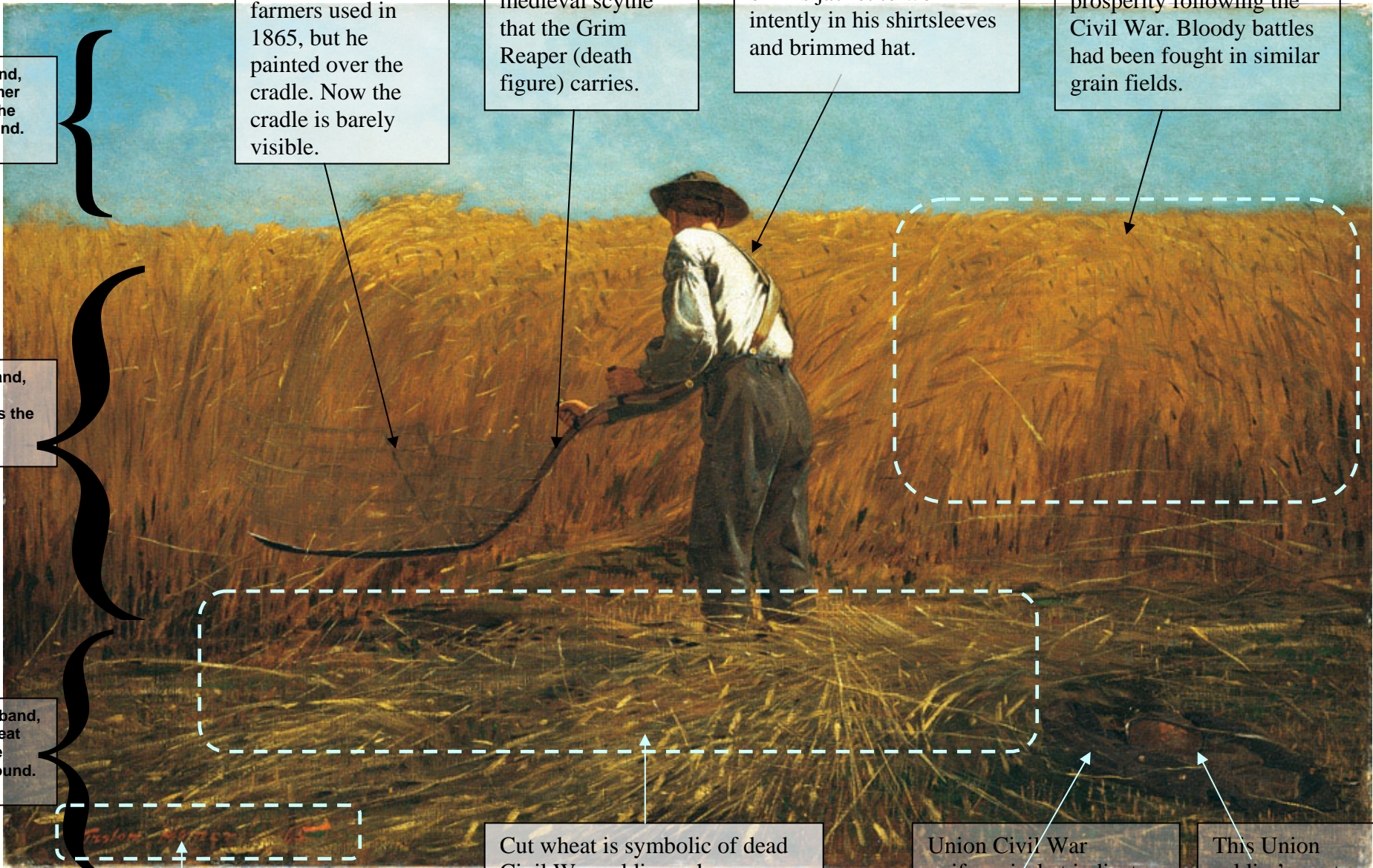
Lower band, cut wheat fills the foreground.

**Faint cradle** – Originally Homer painted a cradled scythe like most farmers used in 1865, but he painted over the cradle. Now the cradle is barely visible.

**Scythe** – out-of-date single blade scythe. It's like a medieval scythe that the Grim Reaper (death figure) carries.

**Bright sunlight** reflects off an anonymous farmer's back. In the midday heat he's thrown off his jacket to work intently in his shirtsleeves and brimmed hat.

**Wheatfield** – A bountiful crop suggests the nation's hope for peace and prosperity following the Civil War. Bloody battles had been fought in similar grain fields.



**Artist's signature** and date painted, 1865. This was soon after Lincoln's death and the surrender at Appomattox.

Cut wheat is symbolic of dead Civil War soldiers who were killed or mown down in battle and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

Union Civil War uniform jacket indicates that he was once a soldier. It has been cast aside.

This Union soldier's canteen suggests he was once a soldier.