

Is pablo ibbieta
responsible for the
death of ramon gris



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

In the short story "The Wall" by Jean Paul Sartre, there is an ironic twist of fate against the narrator, Pablo Ibbieta. After days of psychological and physical torture he has been broken down and accepts that he will be executed. Right before he is to be shot he is interrogated one last time on the whereabouts of his comrade Ramon Gris. Pablo is ready to die before betraying his friend but decides that he will lie to the soldiers and give them a false location.

Ironically Ramon was actually hiding at that location and is shot and killed while Pablo is allowed to live because he supposedly told the truth. We can clearly see that Ramon's death was a direct result of Pablo's lie but we can not state that Pablo is fully responsible for his death. After slowly contemplating his impending execution, Pablo has come to terms with the fact that it doesn't matter if he dies. Towards the end, when Pablo is sitting in the laundry room, he weighs the options of telling where Ramon Gris is and his survival vs. his death and Gris still living. He begins to wonder how one can judge who should live and who should die.

He sees that someone is going to be killed, be it either him or Ramon or someone else. When in the prison camp, he sees the guards and realizes that what they are doing really doesn't matter. These guards run around, spending their lives killing and persecuting people who don't agree with them. And none of it really matters, the guards themselves will die eventually. "The Wall" ends with irony as a consequence of the choices that Pablo made.

His story about Gris was turned out to be the truth, and Pablo's choice resulted in his life and the death of Gris when he really was ready to die himself. Pablo didn't care about living so he was not swayed into betraying Ramon so he could be spared. If Pablo is morally responsible for the death of Gris, it would mean that he would have intentionally revealed Gris's whereabouts in order to be spared from execution. This is not true because through the course of the story we can see how Pablo is getting ready die and accepting that he will die. Pablo did not want to live; if he wanted to live he would have told the Fascists where he thought Ramon truly was. This can be seen when he thinks to himself " Of course I knew where Gris was; he was hiding with his cousins, four kilometers from the city.

I also knew that I would not reveal his hiding place unless they tortured me". Pablo tells them a lie because he just wants to lead the soldiers on a ' wild goose chase' before they come back and line him up against the wall. We can say that Pablo is responsible for Ramon's death because he intentionally told a lie that led to Ramon being found and killed but then we must examine what Pablo said. Telling a lie implies that when someone acts on the lie, as the soldiers did, there will be falsity on what was said.

Pablo's ' lie' did not have that untruth so in essence he did not lie. To the Fascists it was the truth and the only person that can see that it was a lie was Pablo. There is no question that Pablo's intention was to tell a lie but that lie unintentionally became the truth.