

Name _____

ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT

Study Guide

Be advised: *there will be a content test on the novel the first full day we return to school. You will turn in this packet at that time for a grade.*

Chapter 1

1. As characters are introduced, please jot down notes to help your remember who is who:

Albert Kropp—

Müller—

Leer—

Paul Bäumer—

Tjaden—

Haie Westhus—

Detering—

Stanislaus Kaczinsky—

2. Briefly describe Kantorek. Why do you think Müller wishes Kantorek is in the war with them?

3. How does the experience of war change Paul's attitude toward authority?

4. List the ways Kemmerich's friends try to help him.

5. Why do the soldiers smile bitterly when Kantorek refers to them as "Iron Youth" in his letter to Kropp?

Chapter 2

1. Why does Paul think the younger soldiers' lives have become a wasteland while the older soldiers' lives have merely been interrupted?

2. List two benefits the recruits receive from their basic training. What methods does Himmelstoss use to prepare the recruits? Why do they hate him?

3. Explain how the boots act as a symbol showing the expendability of the young soldiers at the front.
4. How would you describe Paul's mental emotional state at this point of the narrative? (optimistic, pessimistic, reservedly hopeful, etc.) What in the text makes you think this?

Chapter 3

1. What is Katczinsky's sixth sense?
2. Compare Katczinsky's idea of how to end the war with Kropp's.
3. How is the "revenge" on Himmelstoss, just before the soldiers leave the barracks, an example of irony? How is it an example of a Flashback?

Chapter 4

1. How do the men transform in preparation for battle, the moment the first shells whistle over their heads? Cite a quote from the text to illustrate the men's feelings.
2. Why does Paul believe "To no man does the earth mean so much as to the soldier" (55)?

3. Support the following statement: Kat is an authority figure Paul still respects because he has the wisdom and insight necessary to survive the war.

Chapter 5

1. What keeps Tjaden from fearing the consequences of disobeying Himmelstoss' orders?
2. Explain the differences between Kropp, Müller, and Paul's plans for after the war and Kat and Detering's plans for after the war.
3. Where is the clink? Why is open arrest a good thing?

Chapter 6

1. Support the following statement: The lives of the soldiers are in the hands of fate.
2. Why does the young recruit go mad in the dug-out?

3. List two souvenirs the soldiers retrieve from the battlefield. Why do you think they take chances with their lives to get them?
4. List four reasons why “Between five and ten recruits fall to every old hand” (131).
5. How would you describe Paul’s mental emotional state at this point of the narrative? (optimistic, pessimistic, reservedly hopeful, etc.) What in the text makes you think this?

Chapter 7

1. What does Himmelstoss do to get on good terms with Paul and his friends?
2. How is the refusal of Paul’s mother to discuss her illness with her son similar to Paul’s refusal to discuss the war with her?
3. Cite an example from the text that Paul’s mother understands him better than his father does?
4. Why do you think Paul regrets coming home on leave?

Chapter 8

1. Why might the German peasants be the cruelest to the Russian prisoners (i.e. eating their food in front of the starving men)?
2. What sole aim has Paul “looked for as the only possibility of existence after this annihilation of all human feeling; this is a task that will make life afterward worthy of these hideous years” (194)?

Chapter 9

1. What do Himmelstoss and Kantorek have in common with the Kaiser? Why does Kat think the war is useful to the Kaiser?
2. How is Paul saved from the paralyzing fear that grips him during his first patrol after his leave?
3. Why does Paul feel so desperate in his shell hole that he plans to kill anyone who enters it with him?

4. What two “weapons” does the dying man in the shell hole have to use against Paul? How do they hurt him?

Chapter 10

1. What does the ambulance driver do for Kropp and Paul that gives them a chance to survive? Why does Kropp consider suicide?
2. Why does Paul refuse to be chloroformed? How does Paul manage to get Kropp and himself shipped out on the same train?
3. What is a shooting license? How does it help the men get a good night’s sleep in the hospital? Why do the men not get in trouble when they do not act with proper decorum in the hospital?
4. What is the “dead room”? How does Peter beat the odds?

Chapter 11

1. In what ways does the war transform the soldiers into unthinking animals? What is their only comfort?
2. Why is the summer of 1918 the most terrifying for the soldiers?
3. What is important about the line at the end of the section describing Kat's death—
"Then I know nothing more" (291)?
4. How would you describe Paul's mental emotional state at this point of the narrative?
(optimistic, pessimistic, reservedly hopeful, etc.) What in the text makes you think this?

Chapter 12

(Please be certain to read the brief afterword after the conclusion of Chapter 12)

1. Why does the narration change to third person in this chapter? What evidence is there that Paul is satisfied with his fate?