

The Harmony of War – A Creative Response to All Quiet on the Western Front

Do you remember in *Candide*, how the narrator describes the beautiful harmony of the bloody battle that Candide is involved in? In this project you will use your creative side to convey some of the ideas that we've covered (or that you've discovered) from *All Quiet on the Western Front*.

You will have a great deal of latitude in how you accomplish this. In order to give you some structure, I have presented you with a number of options (though if you have another idea come see me, I am quite open to suggestions). You will be graded based on the amount of time that has been shown that you put into this project with **about 6 hours** being considered the base amount of time. I will put some of the videos that have been done – up on our website (though they may contain spoilers – so probably not a good idea to view them until you finish the book).

Right now, the options are as follows:

1. Writing: Create a series of poems or short stories (vignettes) that parallel both the book and the stations of the cross (in the Christian tradition). You can find a summary of the stations of the cross at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stations_of_the_Cross#Traditional_form – Be creative and thoughtful. This is perhaps the exercise that would take the most self-discipline to do. You cannot rush through this and it must show a good deal of thought and time spent and revising. You do not have to finish reading *All Quiet* to begin this.

You could for instance, find 14 quotes that chronologically follow Paul's experiences in the book – and use those as epigraphs for your poems or vignettes (these could in turn follow Paul or a homeless person, or something else that makes a critical connection). You may team with another student that is choosing option #2 and have them illustrate your project.

2) Art: Create a painting, sculpture, or other artistic endeavor that is related to the book. Some students have also created songs (and played them for us). If you are a musician you can also play an already written song about war (and practice at least 8 hours for it). Once a student, who was a baker, created an elaborate layered cake – complete with candied barbed wires and chocolate trenches. Another good example is the painting that was done by Moriah Martinez (seen on page 2 of this handout). You may partner with another student that is doing option 1 to illustrate their project. Or two musicians can get together too.

3) An Illuminated Text on *All Quiet on the Western Front*. Use the previous handouts and the information below as a guideline if you make this choice. You may also combine this with choice #1 – and create an Illuminated Text that is structured on *All Quiet* and The Stations of the Cross. **This choice** (an Illuminated Text) may be done with a partner. Make sure that it shows the same level of creativity and thought that we've come to expect from these projects (see our website). You may choose to focus on the words, the text, or use animation to illustrate those words as we have seen in the latest Illuminated Texts that may be found on the site. You must create a video – not a Power Point. Use your Ill Text handout and the tutorials and screencasts found on our site.



4) Performance (video tape it) – Students in the past have done dances based on the work and even figure skating – make sure it is specific to *All Quiet*. A student who was a figure skater once created an entire routine and videoed it based on the novel. You may want to get some of your friends that are involved in the same kind of performance to join in with you.

Choosing a song for your Illuminated Text

There are too many songs about war for me to discuss here – but we will be playing some songs in class in the next few weeks. One site that has a very complete list of songs is

<http://www.lacarte.org/songs/anti-war/> You may also want to go to

Google and type in a search on “war songs” on “antiwar songs.”

You should have no pictures that are offensive (though I am aware that war can be offensive in itself) either with graphic gore or with nudity. **This time I will give 0 points for any presentation that does include graphic gore, death, etc.** The point is – if you have these pictures – that is ALL the viewer will see and your more subtle ideas will be lost.

All Projects

Again, no matter which project you do keep in mind the following:

- **Your project should reflect 8 hours of work.**
- Remember, it's not the technology – it's the idea.
- If you have a partner choosing that partner is the most important step – choose someone that you know that you can work with and that will do their share of the work.
- Make sure you follow the guidelines for earlier assignments (such as Illuminated Texts) that apply here.
- **Get started now!**
- Remember to be true to the theme of your project – a good presentation of this sort is like a story with a beginning, a middle, and an end.
- Have fun and show your creative side!

These projects are due in two weeks (12/21). They are worth 800 points – be sure to use any time off. I am very good at seeing how much TIME you spend – if you spend an hour you will get about 80 points. In the past, students who have NOT spent the requisite time on these have gotten grades as low as 25 out of 800. You will have to submit an electronic version (picture, video, audio recording, Word Document, etc) to our website – more on this later.

Extra Credit

1. A Tagxedo on *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *The Things They Carried*, *Candide*, or *The History of Love* – use a page, a Chapter, or the entire book. Remember – you should play with the Tagxedo till you get a meaningful effect (for instance by adding multiple [cut & paste] copies of a particular word. Choose a font and color scheme that you think also adds to your Tagxedo. You need to print it out and have it laminated (both of these can be done at Office Max for about \$3.00). Use a Paint program to blacken out the Tagxedo logo. You also need to upload it to the site – there is a Wordle/Tagxedo Gallery. Up to 50 points

2. Read *Slaughter House Five* or *Catch-22* and take an oral test on them – if you've read them before you need to reread them for this credit (100 points). Don't try to get by with a past reading.

3. Watch *Duck Soup* by the Marx Brothers and answer the movie questions associated with them (found on our website). Have a party over break and invite your friends and take some digital pictures (you need to upload at least 3 to our site – go to the assignment forum for more information). It's a fun movie and you'll have a great time. 100 points.

4. Yes, you can still watch and do the Movie Questions for *Wings of Desire*.

