

Chapter 4

1. How is nature represented in the opening of this chapter? Why is this significant?

Nature is represented as calm and dark in the opening of chapter 4. It was a “warm evening”, and “the twilight seems like a canopy under whose shelter we feel drawn together.” - this shows how the night was warm and rather calm, as opposed to the horrible conditions that were prevalent in most nights during the war.

2. Chapter 4 is the first time in which a battle is shown within the novel. In pages 53, 54 and 55 how is the Front represented?

In pages 53, 54, and 55, the front is represented by violence, terror and restlessness. On page 53, Paul states; “The front is restless. “The Tommies are firing already,” says Kropp.” - this quote shows how terrifying the front is, as there are guns being fired near them as they continue on their journey. Also, Paul states: “ they start punctually at ten o’clock”, which shows how restless the front is. Shortly after this, Paul states; “Three guns open fire close beside us”, and “the guns roar and boom” - these quotes show how violent the front is. Later on, Paul states; “Our faces are neither paler nor more flushed than usual; they are not more tense nor more flabby--and yet they are changed.” - this shows how the front is terrifying, as the crew of men were significantly changed by the environment of the front.

3. How is the battle described on page 59?

The battle on page 59 is harsh. There is a bombardment of rockets, a “thunder” of guns, explosions, and “howls, pipings, and hissings” in the air above them. Paul states; “They are smaller shells;--and amongst them, booming through the night like an organ, go the great coal-boxes and the heavies.” The rockets being described as booming like an organ is what made me conclude that the battle was harsh, as these deep booming sounds would have definitely caused trauma in the soldiers, which may be what caused the recruit to have a meltdown reaction as a result of shellshock in chapter 6.

4. How is the battle represented on page 61?

The battle on page 61 has more details and descriptions than the battle on page 59, which make the battle seem more intense. On page 61, Paul and the men have a recruit beside them, who was in a state of “utter terror”. Paul also states that there was a barrage; “The mud flies high, fragments whizz past”. Further on in the battle, Paul states; “It’s got someone pretty badly. Cries are heard between the explosions.”. Shortly after this more rockets shoot up in the sky. This battle had more elements to it, which is why it is represented as intense.

5. What language and structural techniques have been used on pages 67 and 68? Why do

you think they've been used?

Onomatopoeia - "the blast thunders in my ears" (67) - I think that this was used to give the reader an idea as to how much worse the impact of the thunder was in this situation.

Simile - "Before me gapes the shell-hole. I grasp it with my eyes as with fists" (67) - I think Paul compared his eyes to his fists to show how vigilant and aware Paul was during this journey/battle.

First-person narration - "Gas-gaas-Gaaas-Pass it on." "I grab for my gas mask" "I seize the mask, pull it over his head, he understands" - I think first-person narration was used because it gives the reader insight into how serious the situation was, by providing the reader with the details of the situation.

Chapter 5

1. This chapter begins with a verb. What do you think is the significance of this?

The significance of the verb "Killing" in the beginning of the chapter is about the lice issue that Tjaden was facing. Lice-infestation was very common on front lines in WW2, which gives the reader insight and information about what soldiers faced, to further show how brutal the battle was.

2. How is their old life discussed on pages 84 and 85. How does this relate to the context?

They are discussing their old classes, and which people of these classes are in the army. This relates to the context because they were classmates before enlisting to fight in WW2.

3. What is the significance Kropp asks on page 86?

"How can a man take all that stuff seriously when he's once been out here?"

The significance of Kropp asking this is that war/the military can significantly change someone, and completely alter the way they think. Kropp is saying that the war will cause someone to forget about/not care about education and things related to education once they have experienced battle/the war.

4. How is 'The Lost Generation' foreshadowed on page 86?

The lost generation is foreshadowed when Muller starts discussing school on page 85/86. The boys never pursued any higher level of education, which relates to the lost generation. Muller said; "A student's life isn't any better. If you have no money, you have to work like the devil." - this mentality/situation is something that many people like them were faced with, which prevented them from doing much more with their life, like from what they were discussing. This mentality/mindset, combined with the trauma of the war is enough to make this its own form of a lost generation

Chapter 6

1. What is the significance of the shell-damaged school in the opening of this chapter?

The significance of the shell-damaged school in the opening of chapter 6 is that many schools worldwide were damaged by the fighting that occurred during WW2. Many schools were unintentionally damaged, or even destroyed during these times. This destruction/damage to these schools also shows how much the young generation of the WW2 times were affected by the war. Early education may not have happened for many people, which delays further education, resulting in no education for the people of the areas impacted.

2. Why do you think chance is personified within the opening 3 pages of this chapter?

3. How are the symptoms of shell-shock represented on pages 109 and 110?

The symptoms of shell-shock are represented in one of the recruits in the form of anxiety, fear and stress. The recruit is not thinking straight, which is evident when he says; "Leave me alone, let me go out, I will go out!", as the situation outside of barracks/encampment is very dangerous, and will likely lead to death. These symptoms are due to the soldier going from his training, straight into the battlefield, which would take a huge toll on someone - it is hard enough for someone to face this after being in the army for so long, but to do it near the beginning of being enlisted is extremely detrimental and has many negative impacts, just like the ones that the recruit exhibited.

4. At the bottom of page 112, what is the significance of the way the French soldier is described as he dies?

The significance of the description of the French soldier is how these scenes impact a soldier, like Paul. "I see one of them, his face upturned, fall into a wire cradle. His body collapses, his hands remain suspended as though he were praying. Then his body drops clean away and only his hands with the stumps of his arms, shot off, now hang in the wire." - This gruesome event that Paul endured is similar to the things that many people say during the war. These events stick with people, and cause such a serious impact that they can describe the event so accurately, as if it just happened.

5. What is the significance of the passage on page 113 which begins "We have become wild

beasts" to "They did not count on so much resistance" on page 114?

The significance of this passage is that the war has impacted the soldiers so heavily, and they have been dehumanized to the point where they feel as though they are some sort of wild beasts, who just kill, attack, and be violent. This is necessary in a war like this, though it takes a toll on anyone with a sense of

humanity. Paul and his fellow soldiers have dug deep, endured things, and now continue to keep their thoughts of courage and ferocity with them, and that they will continue to fight back.

6. How are the injuries described on page 134?

The best way to describe the injuries on page 134 are raw, or uncensored. "We see men living with their skulls blown open; we see soldiers run with their two feet cut off, they stagger on their splintered stumps into the next shell-hole; a lance-corporal crawls a mile and a half on his hands dragging his smashed knee after him; another goes to the dressing station and over his clasped hands bulge his intestines; we see men without mouths, without jaws, without faces; we find one man who has held the artery of his arm in his teeth for two hours in order not to bleed to death. The sun goes down, night comes, the shells whine, life is at an end." These descriptions of the trauma and suffering that soldiers endured is something that will forever stick in the mind of someone who saw these things.

Chapter 7

1. How does Baumer react to being on page 158 and 159?

2. On page 161, why do you think Baumer doesn't tell his mother about the reality of war?

I think that Paul doesn't tell his mother about the reality of war for a few reasons; the first being that she is ill, and adding on more stress is not a good thing for his mom's wellbeing, and he may feel that he would be hurting her more, the second is that simply Paul is extremely traumatized and may not want to bring up/think about having to endure even more trauma when he returns while on his time off, and finally the fact that he just cannot put into words how violent the war really is and what he had experienced.

3. Why do you think Baumer feels so distant and alienated when back home? Use a quotation to support your opinion.

I believe that Paul feels distant and alienated because the war has traumatized him so deeply and caused such an internal conflict that now all Paul thinks about is the war and the front, and now home, or anything prior to the war does not feel normal. "I struggle to make myself laugh, to speak, but no word comes, and so I stand on the steps, miserable, helpless, paralyzed, and against my will the tears run down my cheeks." (158) - this quote supports Paul's feelings of his own home becoming foreign to him after his experience on the front and at war, and how his whole life has been absorbed by the front.

4. What do you make of the conversation on page 183 and 184?

I think that this conversation is an extension of Paul's internal trauma, and anger that he had developed as he expresses more thoughts in his head after responding to his mother's questions, when he uses repetition; "Ah! Mother!" and then states things relating to what he had just said. The things that he had endured cause a sense of anger in Paul, and further show how he doesn't feel home as he's thinking thoughts of kind of disrespect to his mother

Chapter 8

Chapter 9

1. On pages 204, 205 and 206 how do they speak about war? How does this relate to the context?

On these pages, they speak about the war from the perspective that war is fought among people, and not the countries themselves. They discuss the point of having a war, and that they don't even believe in it. When it is stated; "in France, too, the majority of men are laborers, workmen or poor clerks. Now just why would a French blacksmith or a French shoemaker want to attack us?" (205) - this further highlights how they view the war as having little to no point, and how the people in the war are similar as people despite being on opposite sides.

When Deterring said; "There are other people back behind there who profit by the war, that's certain.", he highlights the corrupt aspects of war.

2. How is a sense of togetherness created on page 212?

Paul was alone and isolated in the trench, but with the use of a stream of consciousness with all of what was happening around him, he was expressing how his friends/fellow soldiers are now with him, and he is no longer alone, which creates a sense of togetherness.

Chapter 10

1. How are the injuries represented in this chapter? Pick out two quotations and explain why you think Remarque used this imagery.

The injuries are represented as uncensored, and like real/authentic

“Many of the wounded have their shattered limbs hanging free in the air from a gallows” (251)

I think this imagery was used to cause the reader to think of the brutality of this situation, as it creates an image of what happens, for the reader by describing this in depth

“The rifles are caked, the uniforms caked, everything is fluid and dissolved, the earth one dripping, soaked, oily mass in which lie yellow pools with red spiral streams of blood and into which the dead, wounded, and survivors slowly sink down.” (272)

I think this imagery was used to create a sense of environment of how the situation was to further express the situation with the injuries

Chapter 11

1. What tone is created at the beginning of this chapter?

2. From “Our thoughts are clay” to “any longer”, how is the war represented?

The war is represented as completely life changing and detrimental to one’s self. This is highlighted in the quote “the things that existed before are no longer valid, and one practically knows them no more” highlights how the war has taken a young adult such as Paul, who lived a normal life, with an education, friends, and a sense of family, with everything else that comes with life, to a person whose only goal is to stay alive through defending and killing, with the other aspects that I just mentioned disappearing, which shows a major shift, and how

everything prior to enlisting cannot prepare for what happens while at war, which likely created a sense of regret in Paul.

3. Why do you think repetition is used on pages 284 and 285?

I think repetition is used on pages 284/285 because the repetition effectively communicates and summarizes how the war played out for Paul, and for many other people in WW1 and even in WW2: the first repetition shows how innocence is still present in soldiers, by including things like nature, and repetition of the word Life!. The second repetition shows how this innocence is slowly lost, which is shown when it mentions departing for the front line, showing a shift from the previous part, and how it was wild and tormenting. The last repetition shows the fighting and the war has become completely relentless and desensitized; “raging fever of impatience, of disappointment, of the most agonizing terror of death”, which shows how much the perspective that they once had on the war had changed.

Chapter 12

1. What emotions are presented in this chapter? How does this narrative style add to this?

Hopeful, while also hopeless. The whole chapter is monotone, and very sad, as with a stream of consciousness Paul expresses the feelings; “I am so alone”, and “I am very quiet.”