

Ms. Greene

Senior English

*All Quiet on the Western Front***Chapter 2: “Kemmerick’s Boots”**

**Context:** Paul meditates on his innocent past before he was a soldier, comparing it to his life today. He describes the soldiers’ training and the buildup of their camaraderie. Finally, he describes his painful visit to his dying friend Kemmerich, whose boots come to signify the harsh reality of war.

**Close Reading Questions:** For each question, respond in **two to three full sentences**. Be clear and specific, *smoothly incorporating supporting quotes* to back up your interpretation. See example response below to #1. Mimic the style of mine in yours. **GOAL: most quotes of 10 or fewer words.**

**Tip for Embedding Quotes**

Integrate quotes into your own sentences by choosing the most important words and paraphrasing the rest. When you integrate quotations in this way, you do not use any special punctuation. Instead, you should punctuate the sentence just as you would if all of the words were your own. Then cite as close to the quoted material as possible, generally a major punctuation mark (end punctuation, colon or semicolon).

- 1) Review pages 19-20. Evaluate how the novel contrasts the younger generation, “the iron youth” with the older generation. Explain and provide detail.

*The novel contrasts the younger generation, “the iron youth” with the older generation. Paul says that men who are older have their lives to return to, but for he and the rest of the younger men the influence of parents is weak and “girls have not yet got a hold over us” (20). The younger generation do not have anything holding them down, and they have not had a chance to determine who they were going to be. Additionally, they have few links to the future they have not yet started, and their links to the past are weak, as it is done (high school). The younger generation because it has nothing to look forward to, “have become a waste land” (20). The older generation sees a need for the war to get to what is beyond, but because they don’t have to fight in it, they have a distance whereas these boys are in the battle, and without anything strong anchoring them to home, they feel lost and that the war is pointless.*

- 2) Review pages 20-21. Why does Paul feel Muller should get to keep Kemmerich’s boots?
- 3) Review pages 21-22. Describe the shift in the young men from the time they enlisted to their days on the front lines of the war?
- 4) Review pages 23-26. Why does Himmeltoss dislike Paul and his buddies? How does he punish them and how do they retaliate?
- 5) Review pages 26-27. How does training help the young soldiers develop group morale or “esprit de corps”?
- 6) Review pages 27-29. Why does Paul feel that Kemmerich’s dying is so particularly unjust?
- 7) Review pages 29-31. Why does Paul realize he should stop trying to console Kemmerich?

**Topic Tracker****Topics Key**

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|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. The Horror of Modern War | 3. The Lost Generation                   |
| 2. Survival                 | 4. Comradeship                           |
|                             | 5. The Hypocrisy of the Older Generation |

“Though Müller would be delighted to have Kemmerich's boots, he is really quite as sympathetic as another who could not bear to think of such a thing for grief. He merely sees things clearly... We have lost all sense of other considerations, because they are artificial. Only the facts are real and important for us. And good boots are scarce” ( ).

Speakers: \_\_\_\_\_

Related character(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Related Themes:      1          2          3          4          5

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“Had we gone into the trenches without this period of training most of us would certainly have gone mad. Only thus were we prepared for what awaited us. We did not break down, but adapted ourselves; our twenty years, which made many another thing so grievous, helped us in this. But by far the most important result was that it awakened in us a strong, practical sense of esprit de corps, which in the field developed into the finest thing that arose out of the war—comradeship” ( ).

Speakers: \_\_\_\_\_

Related character(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Related Themes:      1          2          3          4          5




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**Symbolism from Chapters 1-2**

Directions: Complete the chart with the meaning of the symbols.

Scene/ Situation	Symbolizes
The theft of Kemmerich’s watch 	
The boots 	
Kemmerich’s death 	

Find another quote from the first two chapters that was impactful. What is the quote and what make it impactful to the reader (you)?

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