

All Quiet on the Western Front: film and questions**Background:**

In the 1930s Remarque's books were banned in Germany by the government. The film was denounced by Goebbels as anti-German, but the Poles banned it for being pro-German. In France it was prohibited until 1962. *All Quiet on the Western Front* was among the works consigned to be publicly burnt in 1933 by the Nazis. Stores were ordered to stop selling his books. The film's premiere was disrupted by Nazi gangs; Remarque was accused of pacifism. In 1938 Remarque lost his citizenship, and he left Germany. He moved to Switzerland and later to the United States. After the war Remarque settled eventually back in Switzerland. He died in Locarno, on September 25, 1970.

Questions to answer whilst watching the film:

A. How does the filmmaker encourage you to have sympathy with Paul, the lead character?

???

A. Outline Paul's relationship to each of the following:

1. His friend's mother ???	2. His teacher ???
3. His own mother ???	4. The other soldiers at the front ???

B. What is the significance of Paul deciding to draw the bird near the trenches?

???

C. What do you think is the basic message of this film?

???

D. If you were a film director, and wanted to get the opposite message across, how would you change:

The people cast as the key characters ???	Their reaction to circumstances ???
The soundtrack ???	The scenery ???

E. With reference to its origin and purpose, comment on the value and limitations of this source for a historian of World War One.

	Origin: Who produced the source?	Purpose: Is the source designed to inform or persuade? In what way?
Value: What is this source useful for?	???	???
Limitations: In what ways is this source unreliable / narrowly focused?	???	???