

## Group Work 5 Chapter 10– All Quiet on the Western Front

**BIG CHANGE in the READING – Both Chapter 11 & 12 will be due for tomorrow (12 is three pages) – Tomorrow’s discussion IS a completion grade assignment (the 1000 points)**

1. **(timekeepers – this one will take a bit of time)** We have discussed in class how humorous or “happy-go-lucky scenes can contribute to the “meaning” of a work as a whole. Of the four books and three films that we have read and seen – *The Return of Martin Guerre*, *The History of Love*, *Everything is Illuminated*, *Candide*, *The Things They Carried*, *The Graduate*, and *All Quiet* – all have varying degrees of the profound mixed with the not-so-serious (and downright laughter) - How do the scenes of humor contribute directly to the work as a whole? Be more specific than “it makes you appreciate...”. Use two of these other works – excluding *All Quiet* and specifically (using one specific instance of humor AND the use of humor in general in that work to explain how it specifically contributes to the work as a whole.



2. What is so horrible about the Doctor at the first hospital? What does this have to do with our larger discussion of home and front? Later, on the train – why does he call the nurse a “tormenter” – how is she (in a subtle but significant way) like the doctor (and how does it relate again to home and front) – in connecting these two – though one seems much more significant – you may want to remember (and bring into your discussion) Martin’s (from *Candide*) words about looking into the heart of a person.

3. How do the nuns and their morning prayers fit into this discussion (question 2 – home & front) I am leaving this open so you can fill it in with your own specifics – Be sure to follow up your first answer with any other connections that you see.

4. What is a shooting license? Who has one; how does it come in handy? Ok, how does this fit in to our discussion of home versus front (where does it go?) Have any of you ever wanted to have such a thing? Why or why not? In the film *Everything is Illuminated* – Alex’s grandfather has a kind of shooting license doesn’t he? His crazy and eccentric behavior belies a seriousness that can only be seen as he approaches his home village. Who do you see in *The Things They Carried* as having a shooting license? Why? Is it possible that these divisions (home/front) also can exist within one person (pretty cool question, no?) Explain with very insightful specifics and at least one quote (better be a good one) from *All Quiet*.

5. On page 254: they bellow like what? Why – how does this fit into earlier discussions – be specific. How does it fit in with what you’ve written so far today – again, be specific.

6. What is the dying room? Who goes there and then comes back? Is his name important (ok, you need someone who knows the New Testament of the Christian Bible). What about the amount of time before he comes back into the ward? Consider the other character (Franz) that we’ve seen in Albert’s situation. How does what happens (by the end of the chapter) with Albert echo what happens with Peter and the dying room. Be very specific and thoughtful.

7. How does the incident with Lewandowski (no need to get graphic here) fit in with the ideas of home and front – be specific. I once had a student who told me this incident “ruined” the book for her. What does her reaction say about the reality of these home vs. front worlds that we’ve been talking about?

8. (Biggie – though you don’t have to write much) Consider questions 1, 6 and 7 together. There is a big critical link here. Why have the idyll in the village take part so late in the book; why have Peter return from the dying room and Albert leave a live and sane man; why create such a cheerful “portrait” of the men as seen during the incident with Lewandowski and his wife? What can these scenes, these incidents, this *optimism* have in common? As you read chapter 11 and 12 – think about this question. Any of you that have finished the book – NO SPOILERS.

**DON’T FORGET – FINISH the book for tomorrow!** Your next two books are *Persepolis 1* by Marjane Satrapi (the Complete Version of this book with the sequel is only 5 dollars more) and *In Our Time* by Ernest Hemingway