

All Quiet on the Western Front Group Work – Chapter 4



1. What duty are the men sent up for? Page 52 – can you find a religious allusion here – write it down – and bring it into one of the later questions (yes – you have to remember).

2. What happens to the men when they reach the front – find two specific quotes that describe the transformation that they undergo?

2b. How is the front like a whirlpool – what does that mean – how can you link it with what you said to question 2?

3. Turn to page 57 – read aloud the paragraph that begins “Father on the mist ends.” Examine this paragraph, after you read it – carefully see if you can find an overall thesis for what it is saying.

4. Now – there is something so cool on page 57 I expect to hear an audible “ooooooooohhhh” On page 57 there is the repetition of an image – one describing two different things but the image is strikingly, remarkably, similar. If you have to spend the entire period – find it – when you do you will know. What are the two images? (if you need to check with other groups for consensus, you may). Explain the importance of these images given what you answered in question 2.

5. What is the animal that the men can’t stand the death cries of? Now look at page 64 and find a quote by Detering that explains why they are so angry. Now for the very important, cool, interesting, deep and more part: How does that fit in with those images that you wrote about in question 4 (if this doesn’t make sense you may need to go rework your answer to that question).

5b. Remember the type of meat that Kat was able to find when none was to be found? Remember the straw that he found in place of their beds – where did it come from? Ok – now go back again to question four – make the connection – and of course bring in question 2.

6. The Recruit – how do they try to protect him when his rear end sticks up above the trench (yes...). Back to questions 4-4b – what is this incredible connection (how is he like the animal in question 5). What ultimately do Paul and Kat almost do to the recruit when he is wounded? How does this fit in with everything that you’ve written about today (especially you may want to go back to question 5 – but I believe most of what you written applies to this).

