

Name: _____

Period: _____

AP World History: Modern

Summer Reading Assignment

Erich Maria Remarque's *All Quiet on the Western Front*



Overview:

World War I lasted from 1914 to 1918. It was the first total war, and new military technology led to unprecedented levels of wartime casualties. In contrast to the large swaths of territory caught up in the war on the Eastern Front, the area contested and the battle lines along the Western Front were confined largely to a corner of Belgium and northernmost France. At the beginning of the war, as part of the Schlieffen Plan, Germany had hoped to invade Belgium and quickly circle around to capture Paris and trap French forces defending the French/German border. The Plan failed due to Belgian resistance and quick British mobilization to aid France and Belgium. As a result, a 4-year defensive trench stalemate ensued along a thousand-mile Western Front. The nature of the war that unfolded and the death toll and misery were unlike anything ever before experienced in European history.

This summer you will be reading Erich Maria Remarque's excellent book, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, which is a work of "historical fiction." Remarque was a German veteran of World War I, and although a work of fiction, *All Quiet on the Western Front* has long been seen as a personal account of Remarque's experiences in the conflict. Published in 1929, the book tells the story of Paul Bäumer, who belongs to a group of German soldiers on the Western Front during World War I. Unlike the idealistic aspects of warfare, such as honor, glory, and patriotism that predominated much of European thinking in 1914, *All Quiet on the Western Front* focuses on the brutal, harsh reality of warfare. At the beginning of the book, Remarque writes, "This book is to be neither an accusation nor a confession, and least of all an adventure, for death is not an adventure to those who stand face to face with it. It will try simply to tell of a generation of men who, even though they may have escaped (its) shells, were destroyed by the war."

Your assignment is to read the entirety of *All Quiet on the Western Front* and complete the following written components: (1) short answer questions (40 points) and (2) 2 analytical essays (30 points each). These will be assessed as a **Test Grade** upon your return for the Fall Semester.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the human element of World War I and the reality of modern warfare.
- Understand the nature of the trench warfare and its long-term effects on both the soldiers who fought in the war and returned to civilian life and the nations who participated in the conflict.

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St. Thomas Honor Code Acknowledgment

“As a man of St. Thomas, I uphold our honor through goodness, discipline, and knowledge, and I lead my brothers to do the same.”

I acknowledge the Honor Code, set expectations for test taking and the responsibility to be academically honest in my responses on this exam.

Signature

Grading Rubric

AQOTWF Short Answer Questions: _____ out of 10 = _____ Points

Essay #1 (Major Themes): _____ out of 30 = _____ Points

Essay #2 (Your Thoughts): _____ out of 30 = _____ Points

Total

Part 1: Short Answer Questions (40 points)

Using *All Quiet on the Western Front*, answer the following questions thoroughly and analytically with specific examples from the book – include page number references in parenthesis.

1. In Chapter 4, how does the mood and atmosphere change as the soldiers reach the front?

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2. In Chapter 5, why are Paul Bäumer and his comrades anxious about the war ending?

3. In Chapter 6, who do the soldiers believe are their true enemies in the war?

4. In Chapter 7, what does Paul mean by "terror can be endured so long as a man ducks; but it kills if he thinks about it"?

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5. In Chapter 9, what effect does the Kaiser's visit have on Paul Bäumer and his friends?

6. In Chapter 10, why does Paul Bäumer conclude that "a hospital alone shows what a war is"?

7. In *All Quiet on the Western Front*, how does the new military technology used in World War I affect soldiers?

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8. How does *All Quiet on the Western Front* address the roles of honor, duty, and glory in fighting a war?

9. In *All Quiet on the Western Front*, in what ways are Paul Bäumer and his friends part of the “Lost Generation?”

10. In the Author’s Note at the beginning of *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Remarque claims that the novel is “least of all an adventure, for death is not an adventure to those who stand face to face with it.” How accurately does this statement reflect what takes place in the novel?

