

PART I: WORKING INDIVIDUALLY

Directions: Explain how the following passages from “How to Tell a True War Story” relate to what you’ve read and encountered in *All Quiet on the Western Front*. Use **specific examples** from the text to support your point. **Write your answers on a separate sheet of notebook paper.**

1. “Order blends into chaos, love into hate, ugliness into beauty, law into anarchy, civility into savagery.”
2. “The old rules are no longer binding, the old truths no longer true.”
3. “...you find yourself studying the fine colors on the river, you feel wonder and awe at the setting of the sun, and you are filled with a hard, aching love for how the world could be and always should be, but now is not.”
4. “Though it’s odd, you’re never more alive than when you’re almost dead. You recognize what’s valuable. Freshly, as if for the first time, you love what’s best in yourself and in the world, all that might be lost.”
5. “War makes you a man.”
6. “You can tell a true war story if it embarrasses you. If you don’t care for obscenity, you don’t care for the truth; if you don’t care for the truth, watch how you vote. Send guys to war, they come home talking dirty.”
7. “War is nasty; war is fun. War is thrilling.”
8. “War is drudgery.” (drudgery=difficult, boring, or demeaning physical labor)

PART II: GROUP DISCUSSION

Each group member must write his/her own answers to the following questions. These are meant to refresh your memory regarding your reading so far of *All Quiet*.

1. Which character do you consider to be a “father figure” for the rest of the men? What is it about this character that supports this idea?
2. Compare the men of “Troop 9” to the new recruits that they encounter at the front. In what way(s) are they different? What experience(s) do they have that the new recruits don’t have? How has war changed them?
3. Think about the people in the novel that are meant to be **authority figures**—the schoolteacher, Kantorek, Himmelstoss, the Kaiser, politicians in general—how are these people represented in the novel? What do you think that Paul and his comrades feel about their authority? (Think about the scene where they talk about the more “fair” way to wage and decide wars)
4. Why do you think that Paul felt so uncomfortable when he went home on leave? How did the others at home treat him? How did he feel about their opinion(s) of the war?
5. What does Paul wish for? What do his comrades/fellow soldiers wish for? How does the war change the soldiers’ dreams and plans?