

# All Quiet on the Western Front

## Chapters 7–9

by Erich Maria Remarque

### Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

**Practice words:** affably, chasten, destitute, implacable, importune, obliterate, placate, quixotic, stratagem, upbraid

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#### PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview ..... 2

Answer Key — Preview ..... 3

**Caution:** share only if self-checking

#### OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context ..... 4

Answer Key — In Context ..... 5

**Caution:** do not share with students

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#### About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

#### About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

#### Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 · Chapters 1–3 · Paul and his classmates as soldiers

Section 2 · Chapters 4–6 · Back to the front line

**Section 3 · Chapters 7–9 · A rest period behind the lines**

Section 4 · Chapters 10–12 · Guarding an abandoned supply depot

**Bold = this section.** Other sections are available at [verbalworkout.com](http://verbalworkout.com).



[verbalworkout.com](http://verbalworkout.com)

(all resources free)

**Vocabulary Preview**  
**All Quiet on the Western Front**  
Chapters 7–9  
by Erich Maria Remarque

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

*Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.*

1. The host chatted **affably** with everyone at the party.

- A. in a friendly manner
- B. in a loud, boastful way
- C. in a nervous, hurried way

2. A harsh defeat can **chasten** even the proudest champion.

- A. to humble by discipline
- B. to inspire to try harder
- C. to puzzle and confuse

3. After the fire, the **destitute** family had nothing left.

- A. poor and penniless
- B. frightened and confused
- C. angry and bitter

4. The **implacable** general pressed forward without rest.

- A. anxious and uncertain
- B. reckless and disorganized
- C. relentless and unyielding

5. The children **importune** their parents for sweets at every store.

- A. to argue stubbornly
- B. to beg insistently
- C. to whisper secretly

6. A single flood can **obliterate** an entire village in minutes.

- A. to cut off from help
- B. to wipe out completely
- C. to damage in small ways

7. He offered a gift to **placate** the man he had offended.

- A. to impress or outshine
- B. to confuse or mislead
- C. to soothe or win over

8. His **quixotic** plan to end all hunger by himself was doomed.

- A. idealistic but impractical
- B. gloomy and pessimistic
- C. selfish and calculating

9. Her **stratagem** to win the game caught everyone off guard.

- A. a long and tiring effort
- B. a sudden burst of luck
- C. a clever scheme or trick

10. Coaches often **upbraid** players who skip practice.

- A. to challenge openly
- B. to scold sharply
- C. to instruct calmly

**Reading Helpers**

*(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)*

**camerade** — Paul's imperfect attempt at the French camarade, meaning "comrade" or "fellow soldier"

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

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| #  | KEY |
|----|-----|
| 1  | A   |
| 2  | A   |
| 3  | A   |
| 4  | C   |
| 5  | B   |
| 6  | B   |
| 7  | C   |
| 8  | A   |
| 9  | C   |
| 10 | B   |

**Vocabulary in Context**  
**All Quiet on the Western Front**  
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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 10

*Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.*

**1** "... we would have a shot at it though we went under ourselves; for we can be damned quixotic when we like ..."

As it is used in the passage, the word "quixotic" most nearly suggests that the men...

- A. would risk all on a hopeless rescue
- B. have little care for high ideals
- C. act only after cold calculation

**2** "He calls me back again and affably gives me to understand that for once he is pleased to put mercy before justice."

In the passage, the Major is characterized as...

- A. openly sneering and hostile
- B. anxious and unsure of himself
- C. pleasant in manner as he relents

**3** "... I fear to importune it too much, because I do not know what might happen then."

It can reasonably be inferred that Paul...

- A. holds back from forcing his lost past
- B. is sure his past still belongs to him
- C. has wholly forgotten his past

**4** "In school Kantorek used to chasten Mittelstaedt with exactly the same expression ..."

The passage most strongly suggests that, in school, Kantorek...

- A. praised his pupils warmly
- B. disciplined his pupils by harsh reproof
- C. ignored his pupils' mistakes

**5** "Mittelstaedt continues to upbraid him ..."

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. show a pupil scolding his old teacher
- B. show the teacher forgiving the pupil
- C. show two soldiers joking as equals

**6** "How destitute she lies there in her bed, she that loves me more than all the world."

Which statement about the mother is best supported by the passage?

- A. She lies helpless and bereft in her bed
- B. She has lost all her money
- C. She is recovering her former strength

**7** "... I see the grey, implacable muzzle of a rifle which moves noiselessly before me whichever way I try to turn my head."

The author most likely describes the muzzle as 'implacable' in order to...

- A. stress the gun's harmless stillness
- B. convey a relentless, inescapable menace
- C. suggest the threat has safely passed

**8** "... perhaps I may still forget him, time will obliterate it, this picture."

In context, the word "obliterate" emphasizes...

- A. the careful keeping of a picture
- B. the total erasing of a memory
- C. the slow fading of a sound

**9** "... I swear blindly that I mean to live only for his sake and his family, with wet lips I try to placate him ..."

Which choice best describes the narrator's attitude toward the dying man?

- A. triumphant over a beaten foe
- B. coldly indifferent to him
- C. desperate to soothe and appease him

**10** "... and deep down in me lies the hope that I may buy myself off in this way and perhaps even get out of this; it is a little stratagem ..."

It can reasonably be inferred that Paul's 'little stratagem' is...

- A. a sincere promise to the dead man
- B. a surrender of all his hope
- C. a scheme to bargain away his guilt

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

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| #  | KEY | NOTE                                                                                                          |
|----|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | A   |                                                                                                               |
| 2  | C   | The Major turns affable only after needlessly humiliating Paul; the genial manner masks the cruelty.          |
| 3  | A   |                                                                                                               |
| 4  | B   |                                                                                                               |
| 5  | A   | Character comprehension. The humor depends on knowing Kantorek was once Mittelstaedt's bullying schoolmaster. |
| 6  | A   | Character comprehension. Here 'destitute' marks the dying mother's helpless desolation, not literal poverty.  |
| 7  | B   |                                                                                                               |
| 8  | B   |                                                                                                               |
| 9  | C   | Event comprehension. Paul is trying to comfort the enemy he has fatally stabbed.                              |
| 10 | C   | Event comprehension. The 'stratagem' is Paul's bargain to buy off the guilt of having killed the man.         |

#### Teacher Context: Chapters 7–9

Pulled back from the line, the men enjoy a rest period and Paul is granted home leave, where he finds he can no longer connect with civilian life. He returns by way of a camp guarding starving Russian prisoners, rejoins his regiment for a staged inspection, and is trapped in a shell hole where he kills a French soldier face to face. The break falls after Chapter 9 as the war's final phase and Paul's own wounding begin in Chapter 10.