

All Quiet on the Western Front

Chapters 10–12

by Erich Maria Remarque

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: aberration, banal, fastidious, fatuous, idyll, invulnerable, mockery, rapt, superfluous, surreptitiously

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

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.



verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Failing the test was an aberration in her school record.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. an early warning signB. a deliberate choiceC. a one-time exception <p>2. Most pop songs on the radio sound banal to him.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. odd and complexB. harsh and gratingC. dull and unoriginal <p>3. My fastidious aunt rejects any dish that is not perfectly arranged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. easily bored and restlessB. proud and self-importantC. fussy and very particular <p>4. He gave a fatuous laugh at his own weak joke.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. smug and foolishB. nervous and forcedC. loud and boastful <p>5. Our quiet week at the lake felt like an idyll.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. a peaceful, happy timeB. a brief, strange dreamC. a thrilling adventure | <p>6. Behind the magic shield the hero felt invulnerable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. unable to be harmedB. filled with great strengthC. hidden from all view <p>7. The cheap repair job was a mockery of real craftsmanship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. a famous, admired exampleB. a poor, laughable imitationC. an honest, skilled attempt <p>8. The children sat rapt as the storyteller spoke.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. fully absorbedB. puzzled and confusedC. silent and still <p>9. We cut every superfluous word from the report before printing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. vague and unclearB. more than is neededC. overly formal <p>10. He surreptitiously slipped the note into her bag.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. calmly and politelyB. secretly and slylyC. quickly and carelessly |
|---|---|

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

niggardliness — extreme stinginess; here, life's grudging meagerness in wartime

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary in Context
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

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

1 *“So we zealously set to work to create an idyll—an idyll of eating and sleeping of course.”*

In context, the word “idyll” emphasizes...

- A. a deliberately carefree, peaceful scene
- B. a long-awaited return to their homes
- C. a brief rest forced on them by orders

6 *“... a mixture of cow and yearning god, half stupid and half rapt.”*

In the passage, Detering is characterized as...

- A. bitter and resentful
- B. shrewd and calculating
- C. dazed yet lost in longing

2 *“Tjaden has become so fastidious that he only half smokes his cigars. With his nose in the air he explains to us that he was brought up that way.”*

In the passage, Tjaden is characterized as...

- A. affecting fussy, superior airs
- B. weary and short of patience
- C. openly scornful of his comrades

7 *“Anyone might have known that his flight was only homesickness and a momentary aberration.”*

It can reasonably be inferred that Detering’s flight was...

- A. a long-planned, deliberate escape
- B. a clever bid to reach Holland
- C. a brief, out-of-character lapse

3 *“... he is merely raking about in the wound and looking up surreptitiously at me over his glasses.”*

The passage most strongly suggests that the surgeon is...

- A. too absorbed to notice him
- B. secretly watching how he reacts
- C. checking whether he has fainted

8 *“From a mockery the tanks have become a terrible weapon.”*

Which statement is best supported by the text?

- A. Tanks were always feared as deadly
- B. Tanks once seemed a laughable failure
- C. Tanks proved useless in the end

4 *“I am young, I am twenty years old; yet I know nothing of life but despair, death, fear, and fatuous superficiality cast over an abyss of sorrow.”*

As it is used in the passage, the word “fatuous” most nearly describes life as...

- A. fragile and short-lived
- B. openly cruel and violent
- C. smugly empty and foolish

9 *“... a fleet of roaring, smoke-belching armour-clads, invulnerable steel beasts squashing the dead and the wounded ...”*

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. stress the tanks’ unharmable power
- B. show the tanks move clumsily
- C. show the soldiers’ fierce resolve

5 *“If one wants to appraise it, it is at once heroic and banal—but who wants to do that?”*

The author most likely includes the word “banal” in order to...

- A. praise the bond as purely noble
- B. stress that the bond is also ordinary
- C. mock the men’s empty boredom

10 *“We will be superfluous even to ourselves, we will grow older, a few will adapt themselves, some others will merely submit, and most will be bewildered ...”*

It can reasonably be inferred that the speaker expects his generation to...

- A. feel unneeded and out of place
- B. rebuild quickly and thrive
- C. be honored for their service

ANSWER KEY
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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	A	
3	B	Event comprehension.
4	C	Here 'fatuous' describes the empty, self-satisfied surface of life laid over real sorrow – smug foolishness, not mere silliness.
5	B	Theme comprehension. 'It' refers to the soldiers' comradeship; 'banal' concedes the bond is also commonplace, qualifying its heroism.
6	C	Character comprehension.
7	C	Event comprehension.
8	B	'Mockery' here means something laughably inadequate – the tanks were once dismissed as a joke – not the act of ridiculing someone.
9	A	
10	A	Theme comprehension.

Teacher Context: Chapters 10–12

Paul's group is assigned to guard an evacuated village, where they briefly live well before he and Kropp are wounded and sent to a Catholic hospital. As 1918 wears on, the German army collapses and Paul's comrades are killed one by one. Section runs to the end of the novel.