

Novel·Ties

**ALL QUIET ON THE  
WESTERN FRONT**

*Erich Maria Remarque*



**A Study Guide**

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**LEARNING LINKS**

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## For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide consists of instructional material to use in conjunction with the novel *All Quiet on the Western Front*. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, as well as extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel.

NOVEL-TIES are either for whole class instruction using a single title or for group instruction where each group uses a different novel appropriate to its reading level. Depending upon the amount of time allotted to it in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in two to four weeks.

The first step in using NOVEL-TIES is to distribute to each student a copy of the novel and a folder containing all of the duplicated worksheets. Begin instruction by selecting several pre-reading activities in order to set the stage for the reading ahead. Vocabulary exercises for each chapter always precede the reading so that new words will be reinforced in the context of the book. Use the questions on the chapter worksheets for class discussion or as written exercises.

The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits formed by practice in focusing on interpretive comprehension and literary techniques will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

## PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

1. Preview the book by reading the title and the author's name and by looking at the illustration on the cover of the book. What do you think the book will be about? Where and when do you think it takes place? Have you read any other books by the same author?
2. Turn to the copyright page at the beginning of the book. Notice the year in which this book received its first copyright. Tell what qualities you think a book must have to stay in print for so many years.
3. **Cooperative Learning Activity:** With a small group of classmates, discuss the concepts of "heroism" and "patriotism." Assign one person the role of recorder to write down the group's responses. In your discussions, consider questions such as the following:
  - What constitutes heroism during wartime? Does a person have to be given a medal to be acknowledged as a hero?
  - What does patriotism mean to you?
  - What customs do you practice out of patriotism for your country?
  - What sacrifices would you be willing to make for the sake of your country?Before reading the book, compare your groups' responses to those of other groups.
4. World War I was known as the "war to end all wars." Expand your knowledge of World War I by choosing one of the following topics and researching it in the library and on the Internet. Share your findings with your classmates.
  - assassination of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria
  - Allied powers or Central powers
  - war campaigns on the Western Front or the Eastern Front
  - Battle of the Marne or Battle of Verdun
  - Armistice of 1918
  - League of Nations
5. Study the map of Europe before World War I shown on page two of this guide. Locate a recent map of Europe and compare the two maps. How have the names and borders of some of the countries changed?
6. Do some research on the underlying and immediate causes of World War I. What did each side hope to gain? What did each side actually gain or lose?
7. Look at photographs or old newsreel film depicting the optimistic mood of the United States as it entered World War I. What do you think accounted for this mood? Do you think such a mood would exist today during a time of war?

**GLOSSARY OF MILITARY TERMS**

artillery	large mounted guns operated by several soldiers
barracks	one or more buildings used to house soldiers
billets	lodging for soldiers in non-military buildings
company	unit of soldiers, usually consisting of two or more platoons
court-martial	military court that tries persons subject to military law
dressing station	field hospital
garrison	permanent military post
Iron Cross	German medal awarded for distinguished military service
latrine	communal toilet in a military barracks
lorry	British term for an open motor truck, used for transporting soldiers
martinet	person who demands strict obedience to the rules, particularly in the military
mess tin	compact container of food for a soldier
mortar	type of cannon that fires shells in a high arc
munitions	military supplies such as ammunition or guns
no man's land	area between two opposing armies, not controlled by either one
non-com	subordinate, non-commissioned officer, such as a sergeant, who is appointed from among enlisted men
platoon	unit of soldiers, smaller than a company but larger than a squad, usually commanded by a lieutenant
quartermaster	military officer in charge of food, clothing, and equipment for troops
ration	supply of food issued to a soldier
sentry	soldier stationed to keep watch and alert others of danger
shrapnel	shell fragments
territorial	member of a regional military unit serving outlying areas
tommy	name used to refer to a British soldier
troop	group of soldiers