**Excerpts from “All Quiet on the Western Front”**

Directions: Read these excerpts from *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque. After you read, answer the questions associated with it. The first one is directly related to the passage, while the second is opinion-based. All responses should be two (2) sentences.

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“But now, for the first time, I see you are a man like me. I thought of your hand-grenades, of your bayonet, of your rifle; now I see your wife and your face and our fellowship. Forgive me, comrade. We always see it too late. Why do they never tell us that you are poor devils like us, that your mothers are just as anxious as ours, and that we have the same fear of death, and the same dying and the same agony--Forgive me, comrade; how could you be my enemy?”

**1. How does the author feel about the enemy soldiers?**

**2. If the United States entered World War III, would you volunteer to fight?**

“A man cannot realize that above such shattered bodies there are still human faces in which life goes its daily round. And this is only one hospital, a single station; there are hundreds of thousands in Germany, hundreds of thousands in France, hundreds of thousands in Russia. How senseless is everything that can ever be written, done, or thought, when such things are possible. It must be all lies and of no account when the culture of a thousand years could not prevent this stream of blood being poured out, these torture chambers in their hundreds of thousands. A hospital alone shows what war is.”

**3. What is the author describing in this passage? What are its conditions like?**

**4. How well do you think soldiers were treated?**



“We're no longer young men. We've lost any desire to conquer the world. We are refugees. We are fleeing from ourselves. From our lives. We were eighteen years old, and we had just begun to love the world and to love being in it; but we had to shoot at it. The first shell to land went straight for our hearts. We've been cut off from real action, from getting on, from progress. We don't believe in those things any more; we believe in the war.”

**5. How does life change when someone fights in a war like WWI?**

**6. What should soldiers returning home from war receive from their country?**

“To no man does the earth mean so much as to the soldier. When he presses himself down upon her long and powerfully, when he buries his face and his limbs deep in her from the fear of death by shell-fire, then she is his only friend, his brother, his mother; she stifles his terror and his cries in her silence and her security; she shelters him and releases him for ten seconds to live, to run, ten seconds of life; receives him again and again and often forever.”

**7. What is the significance of this passage?**

**8. Would you rather fight in a war like WWI or in the Middle East today? Why?**

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**9. Which of the four excerpts above is the most powerful to you? Why?**

**10. All Quiet on the Western Front was written from a German soldier’s perspective. Do you think these excerpts would be different from an Allied perspective? Why or why not?**