

# All Quiet on the Western Front

## Essay Topics – 100 points

*This book is to be neither an accusation nor a confession, and least of all an adventure, for death is not an adventure to those who stand face to face with it. It will try simply to tell of a generation of men who, even though they may have escaped shells, were destroyed by the war.*

**Directions: Choose one of the following writing topics to compose and compose a multi-paragraph essay response. Cite 8-9 quotes as support for your thesis.**

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### 1. The Horrors of War

In a multi-paragraph essay, support Remarque's thematic intention as stated in the novel's epigraph (on the page facing chapter one and reprinted in italics above). Using textual support from the novel, explain how the author believes war to be inglorious and destructive. Discuss how, according to Remarque, the brutality of war affects those who are called to serve. Use Remarque's description of a generation who, "even though they may have escaped shells, were destroyed by the war," to support your thesis.

### 2. Nationalism and Romanticism in War

This topic requires your personal understanding and interest in current events. In a multi-paragraph essay, first explain how through imagery and his characters Remarque critiques the romantic rhetoric of war, honor, and patriotism. Second, compare and contrast Remarque's critique with your own personal thoughts and feelings about war as it relates to our society and military engagements in the world today. Do you agree with Remarque's epigraph (on the page facing chapter one and reprinted in italics above)? Is it sometimes necessary to go to war and who should decide if it is necessary, the leaders or the populous?

- ⇒ Use the first essay topic, The Horrors of War, as your blueprint for selecting quotes from the novel to support Remarque's critique of war (that it is inglorious). Compare and/or Contrast these with your specific examples from American society today.
- ⇒ *There are no right or wrong answers to this topic; just be sure to support your response with specific examples and evidence. You will need to list and cite outside evidence to support your personal thoughts about our country's military engagements today.*