*All Quiet on the Western Front*

Video Questions

*All Quiet on the Western Front* describes the horrors of World War One from the perspective of the main character, Paul Baumer, a German recruit. The movie is divided into four parts: the pre-war education of Paul and his friends and their training, the arrival of the recruits at the front lines of war, the gruesome conditions of trench warfare, and Paul’s homecoming and return to the front lines.

The main characters include:

Himmelstoss – postman and eventual drill sergeant

Paul Baumer – main character

Professor Kantorek – school teacher

Kropp, Leer, Muller, Kemmerick – friends and new recruits

Westhus, Deterring, Tjaden – veteran soldiers

Sergeant Katczinsky “Kat”

Answer the following questions as you watch the movie.

1. How does Paul Baumer introduce the soldiers in his troop?

2. What is Professor Kantorek trying to convince Paul and his friends to do? What does he say about their duty to Germany?

3. Describe the hospital scene. How many deaths has this one hospital seen in one day?

4. What does Himmelstoss say to the recruits? How is he preparing them for war?

5. What are the young recruits noticing as they are about to head onto the train?

6. How does Katczinsky approach the recruits?

7. Describe the reaction of a soldier who gets hit by poison gas.

8. Who dies like flies? Why?

9. How old are the newest recruits?

10. Now, how do the veteran soldiers react to the bombardment? How do the new recruits respond?

11. How does Himmelstoss react to the bombardment? How is this ironic?

12. How does Paul react to the French soldier that he just stabbed? Why do you think he reacts this way? What is Paul battling with inside his head at this moment?

13. What does Himmelstoss receive? How is this ironic?

14. What happens to Paul?

15. Why does he return to his hometown?

16. What is happening with Paul’s family?

17. What does Paul tell Professor Kantorek about the war? How does he react?

18. What happens to Sergeant Katczinsky?

19. What happens just before “all is quiet on the western front”?