**All Quiet on the Western Front**

**Discussion Questions**

1. In the introduction, Erich Maria Remarque states that the story will simply try to tell of a generation of men who, even though they escaped its shells, were destroyed by the war. What do you think he means by that statement?
2. How does Paul describe Stanislaus Katczinsky?
3. What are your initial impressions of trench warfare?
4. Paul Baumer has a flashback to when he was in the classroom. Describe the lecture that he receives from his school master.
5. Why does Baumer’s school master keep him after class?
6. When the boys pay Franz Kemmerich a visit, he is missing part of his right leg, yet some of his friends envy him. Why?
7. Why do the boys take Kemmerich’s boots?
8. What promise did Paul make to Franz’s mother before the boys went off to war?
9. Describe your impression of Corporal Himmelstoss.
10. How do the boys eventually get even with Himmelstoss?
11. What is your reaction to the scene the boys witness before boarding the train on the way to the front?
12. What advice does Kat (the old hand) give to the boys when he first meets them?
13. Why does Baumer say that the rats are particularly repulsive?
14. What is the most feared and obscene weapon of all?
15. Why does Baumer believe that the new recruits are more trouble than they are worth?
16. What does Josef intend to do when the war is over?
17. How does Himmelstoss end up on the front lines?
18. Who is Gerard Duval?
19. What “expectations” does the Kaiser have for his soldiers?
20. Why do the three boys get Charlie drunk?
21. What is ironic about the German soldiers paying a visit to the three French girls?
22. Why does Paul feel that he and Albert are fortunate to end up in a Catholic hospital?
23. What good news does Paul attempt to share with Albert?
24. Why is Albert so depressed?
25. What does Paul learn about his mother after visiting with his sister upon his return home?
26. How does Paul’s father react when Paul elects not to wear his uniform in public?
27. Why does Paul tell Mrs. Kemmerich that her son died without suffering? Was it the right thing to do?
28. Describe Baumer’s visit with his former school master.
29. What advice does Paul’s mother give to him before he returns back to the front?
30. What news does Paul receive about Muller upon returning to the front lines?
31. What are Paul and Kat doing when Kat gets hit by shrapnel?
32. Why is Paul shocked by Kat’s death?
33. Explain what we learned about the fate of Paul’s classmates based on his letter to Albert.
34. How does the film end?
35. How does the fact that the story is told from a German perspective impact one’s feelings about the war?

After viewing the film, encourage the students to do some research on Erich Maria Remarque and his experiences with the Nazis as they rose to power.