

Private Peaceful

By Michael Morpurgo

Read the book carefully.

Write a few sentences that explain the main events for each chapter

1. What was it that made up Tommo's mind to join the army?
2. Many soldiers, like Charlie, didn't want to share the horrors of the trenches with people they loved, and they weren't allowed to write letters about what they were doing. Some soldiers were so disgusted by the lies being told about the front line, they had to speak out.
 - a. Re-read Tommo's letter from his mother (pp157-8). How would he reply? Do you think he'd tell her Charlie is fibbing? Would he tell her the truth? Or would he try and write about things that wouldn't upset her, that would make her feel hopeful?
3. 'Give me half a chance and I'll tell them,' says Pete on p 158. Write Pete's letter, telling his family what it is really like in the trenches. Remember, he would have different things to say or a different view of the same things, so his letter will be very different from Tommo's.
4. Complete the 'find the word that means the same'
5. Use the words that you found from number 5 to create a wordfind.
6. What are your thoughts or feelings about the final chapter?
7. Even though *this* story is fiction, it tells the truth. Many British soldiers were shot for daring to stay true to themselves. Why do you think that Michael Morourgo added the Postscript?
8. Why do you think the author wrote the story?
9. In one sentence, state the most important lesson you've learned from this story?
10. Tommo describes a **gas attack** on pp 153-155. Re-read his description carefully.
 - a. Choose one of the research tasks. You need to research then 'teach' the information to the rest of the group
11. Complete the recruitment task.



Innocence and love,
courage and cowardice

Read pages 161-7, find the word in the novel which **means the same as**:

1. Not allowed
2. Wearing away, erosion
3. Running away in war
4. Disappeared
5. Make fun of, mimic
6. Tied up
7. Untidy
8. Quick
9. Person who looks after you
10. Skiving
11. Confused, perplexed
12. Huge, enormous, giant
13. Hitting like a hammer
14. Self-control, calm
15. Summoned with a gesture

Research Tasks: Question 10

1. Find out about gas used in WW1 and what it did to those who breathed it in.
2. Find out about gas masks and how they worked. Accurately draw one.
3. Find the poem *Dulce et Decorum Est* by Wilfred Owen. What does it tell us about the experience of a Gas Attack?
4. Find the poem *Strange Meeting* by Wilfred Owen. How does it help us understand how soldiers really felt about their enemies?

Recruitment

At the beginning of World War 1, there was a large recruiting campaign to persuade healthy men to take part in the war and fight for their country.

One of the ways of making men join up was by calling them cowards, just like the old woman who called Tommo 'Chicken' (p 96-7). Women were urged to give men they loved who refused to join up a white feather in public to shame them into enlisting. Find the poem **Recruiting** by E.A. Mackintosh, which is about all the pressure put on men to go and fight by the very people who are not going off to fight themselves!

Another way was with **eye-catching posters**,

1. Have a look on the internet for posters that were used for recruitment in WW1. There are lots of other posters warning people not to talk about the war, to black out their windows etc, but just choose those that try to recruit men.
2. Pick out the **persuasive techniques** used. These could be connected to language or strong imagery. List the things you decide are effective. Compare your ideas with others in the group.
3. Decide on something you'd like to **recruit people** for. It could be a sports team, school play, or participation in a local event. Make sure that you choose a real event rather than a made up one.
4. Now design your own **recruiting poster** using the techniques you have discovered.