

~ A Novel Study ~

War Horse



By Michael Morpurgo

**A Novel Study
By Nat Reed**

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Suggestions and Expectations

This 56 page curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on two or three chapters of *War Horse* and is comprised of four different activities:

- Before You Read
- Vocabulary Building
- Comprehension Questions
- Language and Extension Activities

A principal expectation of the unit is that students will develop skills in reading, writing, listening and oral communication, as well as in reasoning and critical thinking.

Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to

- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) determine how characters ... respond to challenges;
- d) drawing inferences from the text;
- e) determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

Students can work on the activities at their own pace. Every activity need not be completed by all students. A **portfolio cover** is included as well as a **Checklist**.

Themes which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include **loyalty, courage, perseverance** when facing challenges, **World War I, farm life, and horses**.

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List of Skills

Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words / phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homonyms
3. Identifying / creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify *foreshadowing*.
7. Identify *personification*.
8. Use of singular / plural nouns
9. Listing compound words
10. Identifying parts of speech
11. Determining alphabetical order
12. Identification of root words
13. Identify/create *similes*

Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Identify the climax of the novel.

Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Relating personal experiences

Creative and Critical Thinking

1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Write a letter to a friend
4. Complete an Observation Sheet
5. Conduct an interview
6. Write a description of personal feelings
7. Write a book review

Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Design a cover for the novel

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Synopsis

In 1914, Joey, a beautiful bay-red foal with a distinctive cross on his nose, is sold to the army and thrust into the midst of the war on the Western Front. With his officer, he charges toward the enemy, witnessing the horror of the battles in France. But even in the desolation of the trenches, Joey's courage touches the soldiers around him and he is able to find warmth and hope. But his heart aches for Albert, the farmer's son he left behind. Will he ever see his true master again?

[The Publisher]

Check out the trailers for **War Horse** on **YouTube**

Author Biography – Michael Morpurgo



Michael Morpurgo is, in his own words, “oldish, married with three children, and a grandfather six times over.” Born in 1943, he attended schools in London, Sussex and Canterbury England (one at least of which was horrible enough to inspire him to describe it obliquely in *The Butterfly Lion*). He went on to London University to study English and French, followed by a step into the teaching profession and a job in a primary school in Kent. It was there that he discovered what he wanted to do.

“We had to read the children a story every day and my lot were bored by the book I was reading. I decided I had to do something and told them the kind of story I used to tell my kids – it was like a soap opera, and they focused on it. I could see there was magic in it for them, and realized there was magic in it for me.”

In 1976 Michael and his wife, Clare, started the charity *Farms For City Children*, which aims to relieve the poverty of experience of young children from inner city and urban areas by providing them with a week in which they work actively and purposefully on farms in the heart of the countryside. [From Mr. Morpurgo's website: <http://www.michaelmorpurgo.com>]

WAR HORSE



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Name:

War Horse

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Chapters 1 - 2



Before you read the chapter:

The protagonist in most novel features the main character or “good guy”. The protagonist of *War Horse* is quite different than most novels – a horse, Joey. Why might this be an especially difficult challenge for a novelist?

Do you think *War Horse* is an effective title for a novel? Why or why not?

ABC Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

stamina	dispose	venture	deliberate	consolation
conviction	instinctive	intricate	resolution	dismissive

1. How will you _____ of all those dead batteries?
2. Miss March was surprised at how _____ the rules of the game were.

3. It is critical for a workhorse to develop enough _____ to work from sunup to sundown without tiring.
4. Winning the bronze medal was at least some _____ for the disappointed gymnast.
5. After it had rained for several hours, the children decided they would _____ outside to see if they could catch some frogs.
6. You could tell by the tone of her voice that she lacked _____ in what she said.
7. The colonel was most _____ of the corporal's foolish suggestion.
8. "Connie made a _____ attempt to injure me," Felicia stated angrily.
9. The organization passed a _____ making it impossible for anyone to enter the clubhouse unannounced.
10. Joey seemed to have an _____ sense warning him when anyone approached the stables.

Questions



1. The first paragraph of Chapter One is certainly an attention-grabber, isn't it? What phrase in this paragraph first lets the reader know that the narrator is probably not a person?

2. Describe the **setting** of the story for most of Chapter One.

3. What specific event separated the colt from its mother?

4. In Chapter One Joey and the readers are introduced to three new characters, Albert, his father and his mother. For each of these characters write a brief description of his/her personality from what we know of them so far.

Albert	
Albert's Father	
Albert's Mother	

5. It is evident that Albert is very pleased that his father purchased Joey. At one point in Chapter One he tells his mother that it was “the best thing he ever did”. Reread Albert’s mother’s response to this statement. What does the lack of conviction in her answer reveal about her true feelings regarding her husband?

6. **Investigate: The Torridge River in County Devon** (mentioned in Chapter Two) was the setting of an award-winning animal story written by Henry Williamson. Using resources in your school library or on the Internet, find out the name of this famous novel. (Check out some interesting Youtube clips from the movie.)

--

7. What challenge did Albert’s dad present to Albert in Chapter Two, and what would be the consequence of Albert failing to achieve what his father asked?

8. What two excuses did Albert’s mother suggest as the cause of her husband’s alcoholism?

9. **Foreshadowing** is a literary device defined as *a hint or clue provided by the writer to tip the reader as to what is to come later in the story*. How might the conclusion of Chapter Two be considered an example of this? What do you think is going to happen in Chapter Three?



Activities

A. Life Stages and Horse Terms

Investigate, then match each term on the left with the proper definition on the left.

A	Stallion	Female horse 4 years or older
B	Filly	Male horse under the age of 4
C	Foal	Male horse 4 years old or older
D	Mare	A horse of either sex between 1 and 2 years old
E	Colt	A horse of either sex less than a year old
F	Yearling	Female horse under the age of 4

B. The author seems to enjoy using **alliteration** – a literary device where the author repeats the same sound at the beginning of several words. An example from Chapter Two is “We’ll teach them a thing or two.”

Using your imagination, create your own examples of **alliteration** from the following topics. Each example must contain a minimum of three words.

The sound of an angry hive of bees	
A baby crying	
From your imagination	

C. Copy out any three sentences from these chapters and underline the **nouns**.

D. The word “**rope**” can be used as a **noun** or a **verb**, depending on the sentence. Use your imagination and write sentences to illustrate how this word can be used as both a noun and a verb.



Rope

Noun	
Verb	

E. Talk Show

With two or three other students prepare to participate in a television talk show featuring characters from these chapters. Choose an interesting character from the book (it doesn't necessarily have to be Albert). Prepare about a half-dozen questions to ask and possible answers.



F. Storyboard



A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel.

Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in the first two chapters of *War Horse*. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper.

1	2
3	4
5	6

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Chapters 3 - 4



Before you read the chapter:

Every good story usually needs an interesting **antagonist** ("bad guy"). In the first four chapters we meet a character who *fills the bill* in this regard. Think about some other books you have read which have featured an antagonist that you have really disliked. What characteristics do you think makes for an effective antagonist?

ABC Vocabulary:

Many of the words in this Crossword Puzzle are from Chapters 3 and 4. Use the words in the box to complete the puzzle.

	1		2		3		4		5		6		7				8
	9														10		
													11				
12					13			14		15							
													16				
17									18								
															19		
20							21		22		23		24				
		25		26					27						28		29
30											31						
									32				33	34			
		35											36				
37							38				39		40				
											41	42					
43															44		
								45									

Down	Across
1. Inborn pattern of behavior.	5. A small district in England.
2. Dreary.	9. Albert's surname.
3. A narrow passageway.	11. Male pigs.
4. A thicket of small trees or shrubs.	12. Joey and Zoey's home.
5. Part Time.	14. Rhymes with <i>hands</i> .
6. Remove someone's doubts.	16. Process of decay.
7. Opposite of <i>drunk</i> .	17. Make certain of something.
8. Get a rest from.	18. Approximately.
10. Straps that fit around the head or neck of a horse.	19. A Great Lake.
13. A kind of bait used by fishermen.	20. New Testament.
15. First name a main character.	22. Species of animal or plant.
19. Plainly obvious.	27. Estimated time of arrival.
20. A captain in the British army.	28. Type of flower.
21. Joey's stablemate.	30. Admit defeat.
22. European country involved in the Great War.	31. Distress signal.
23. Not difficult.	32. Not a <i>gal</i> .
24. Get rid of.	33. ___ and Thank You.
25. A joining.	35. A prophetic sign.
26. Showing strong feeling.	36. Shortly.
29. Demanded.	37. Short for Leonard.
34. A black and white water bird.	38. Sharp
38. Skill or craft.	40. A drunk.
39. <i>Entertainment Weekly</i> .	41. Begins many a question.
42. Not <i>her</i> .	43. Shaven locks.
44. <i>Breakfast Television</i> .	44. A type of British machine gun.
	45. An army unit.

REASSURE	LANE	ABOUT	NICHOLLS	DISPOSE	ENSURE
ROT	IRIS	PLEASE	ACUTE	INSTINCT	WHEN
EVIDENT	VEHEMENT	DRAB	OMEN	LOON	COPSE
STABLE	SOON	LEN	NARRACOTT	EW	ART
SOS	PT	ALBERT	REGIMENT	ZOEY	SHORN
SOT	BREN	NT	BREED	HIM	INSISTED
HALTER	EASY	PARISH	BELGIUM	SOBER	ERIE
ETA	SPANS	LURE	BOARS	CONCEDE	RESPITE
UNION	GUY				

Questions



1. Albert's dad was quite stressed-out. What was the source of this stress?

2. Explain Albert's father's reasoning behind his statement, "That horse of yours eats money".

3. As Chapter Three ends, what task did Albert's father send him on? What ulterior motive did Mr. Narracott have?

4. **Investigate.** The author describes Captain Nicholls as "tall and elegant in his jodhpurs". What are *jodhpurs*?

5. Describe Mr. Narracott's feelings about selling Joey.

- b. Describe Zoey's reaction to this event.

6. Why couldn't Albert join the army at that time? What did Captain Nicholls suggest in this regard?

7. What did Captain Nicholls promise Albert? In your opinion how realistic was this assurance?



Activities

A. Heroes of World War I

From this point on the reader is introduced to the many horrors of the First World War, which was fought in Europe between 1914-1918. In the Information Box below are a number of heroes from this war. Choose one of these brave men and research four interesting facts about him.



ALVIN YORK	BILLY BISHOP	THE RED BARON
BATTLING BRADFORDS	DAVID CAMPBELL	JOHN MCCRAE
BLACK JACK PERSHING	HENRY MURRAY	W.H. COLTMAN

B. Choose ten words from these chapters with two or more **syllables**. Indicate the syllables by drawing a line between each syllable. **Example:** good / bye.

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Chapters 5 - 6



Before you read the chapter:

In the coming chapters Joey experiences his first battle. Imagine for a moment that you are Joey, a war horse going into battle. Describe how such an experience might be even more terrifying for a horse than it would be for a soldier.

ABC Vocabulary:

In each of the following sets of words, underline the one word that does not belong. Then write a sentence explaining why it does not fit.

1. tedious humdrum calamitous boring

2. trepidation contentment anxiety worry

3. imperceptible faint subtle predisposition

4. tassel exhilaration exuberance euphoria

5. apprehensive nervous edgy humdrum

6. extravagant prohibited indulgent wasteful

7. progressed obliged required compelled

Questions



Cloze Call

Complete the following exercise filling in the correct words from the **Word Box**.

stamina	wounded	discipline	weeks	machine-gun	troopers
outflank	Perkins	picnic	guns	infantry	Tophorn
sketch	killed	quarter	nasty	cavalry	courage
England	France				

The riding school changed Joey from a working farmhorse into a _____ mount in only a few short _____. Corporal Samuel _____ was responsible for training Joey. He was a hard man, feared by _____ and horses alike. Captain Nicholls would often _____ when he visited Joey. The Captain predicted that the war was going to be very _____ indeed. Nicholls felt that one _____ could wipe out an entire squadron of cavalry. The Captain worried that he might not have the _____ when he faced the enemy for the first time. The Corporal, on the other hand, worried that Joey would not learn to accept _____ when in battle. Captain Stewart felt that his horse, Tophorn, had Joey

beat when it came to _____. After a final week of training Joey was carried over to _____ in a converted liner. Aboard the ship it felt like the soldiers were on their way to some great military _____. When they reached land the soldiers were sobered by the sight of the many _____ men waiting to return to _____. Every hour of their march took them closer to the thunder of _____. It was _____ who gave Joey courage during these difficult times. The British army were to ensure that the enemy did not _____ them. The first battle that Joey experienced was against a battalion of _____. During the battle Captain Nicholls was _____. More than a _____ of the squadron had been lost.

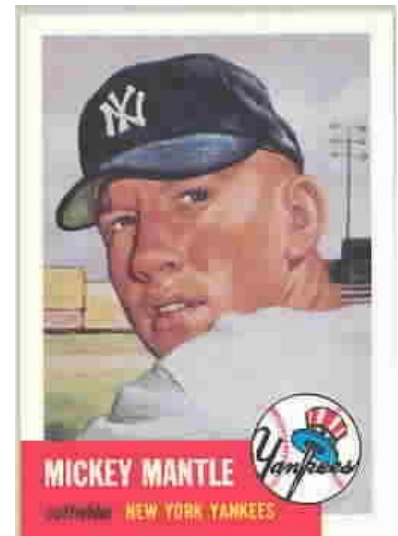


Activities

A. Trading Cards

Down through the ages the horse has been a most important part of history. A number of horses have been immortalized in songs, stories and even poetry. Despite the great contributions made by the noble horse (in fact and fiction), they have never been featured on trading cards – like baseball or football players. But what if they were? Think of the splendid candidates for this remarkable series:

- **Black Beauty**
- **Traveller** (General Robert E. Lee's horse)
- **Joey** (War Horse)
- **Man o' War** (racehorse)
- **The Black Stallion**
- **Northern Dancer** (Canada's most famous horse)
- **Bucephalus**, Alexander the Great's horse
- **Blackie**, belonging to Chief Sitting Bull
- **Silver**, rode by The Lone Ranger
- **Trigger**, Roy Rogers' palomino
- **Seabiscuit**, famous racehorse



Continued on next page ...

Choose one of the above **horses** (or another choice approved by your teacher) and research at least four interesting facts about it (i.e. appearance, size, brief biography). You can use resources in your school library or on the Internet to assist you.

Next create an **information card** to share with your classmates. The information card should be similar in appearance to a sports card (i.e. baseball, football, hockey). A labeled and colored picture of your subject should adorn the front and your chosen facts should be on the back.

B. Place the following words from these chapters in **alphabetical order**.

devotion	1.
done	2.
degree	3.
clear	4.
doubts	5.
cavalry	6.
dreaded	7.
doing	8.
door	9.
donna	10.

C. A number of military ranks are mentioned in this novel. Arrange the following ranks in order, beginning at the highest rank:

colonel	1
private	2
corporal	3
major	4
sergeant	5
captain	6
general	7
lieutenant	8



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Chapters 7- 8



Before you read the chapters:

Barbed wire plays an important part in the coming chapters. How is barbed wire different than normal “unbarbed” wire? How might this be especially terrible for horses like Joey?

ABC Vocabulary:

Draw a straight line to connect the vocabulary word to its synonym or definition. Remember to use a straight edge (like a ruler).

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1. hesitant | a. dedication |
| 2. skirmish | b. barren |
| 3. devotion | c. threatening; foreboding |
| 4. incessant | d. stimulate |
| 5. desolate | e. reluctant |
| 6. sporadic | f. unyielding |
| 7. ominous | g. repulsive |
| 8. galvanize | h. conflict; fight |
| 9. inexorably | i. occasional |
| 10. hideous | j. unending |

Questions



Indicate whether the following statements are **True** or **False**.

1. Captain Stewart assigned the responsibility of looking after Joey to Trooper Warren after the first battle.	True or False
2. Trooper Warren was a superb horseman.	True or False
3. As the war progressed horses were used less and less as cavalry and more for mounted infantry (foot soldiers).	True or False
4. Trooper Warren had been forced to join the army by the village squire, who owned his father's house and smithy.	True or False
5. Trooper Warren received letters from his younger sister, who was a nurse back in England.	True or False
6. When Joey finally reached the battlefield he was surprised at how little the countryside had been affected by the war.	True or False
7. As they approached the German trenches they were faced with rolls of barbed wire as far as the eye could see.	True or False
8. Only a few horses reached the wire.	True or False
9. Trooper Warren had to convince Captain Stewart to throw down his sword and surrender.	True or False
10. Just before being taken as prisoners of war, Captain Stewart assured them that the Germans loved their horses as much as the British.	True or False

Your Thoughts

Describe what you were thinking when you read the passage describing the brave charge of the German trenches in Chapter 8.



Activities

A. Kings, Cousins, Enemies!

Great Britain and Germany were two of the main countries involved in the Great War (World War I – 1914-1918). At that time both nations were ruled by kings. Great Britain by King George V (Queen Elizabeth’s grandfather) and Germany by Kaiser Wilhelm II. Interestingly, these two kings were cousins! (A third cousin was the ruler of Russia at this time.)



King George V



Kaiser Wilhelm II

Your task is to choose one of these two men and research at least four interesting facts about him. These facts might pertain to him personally, his accomplishments, or his fate after the war. Resources for this assignment might include your school library or the Internet.

B. A **simile** is a comparison using the words “like” or “as”. An example from Chapter Seven is “He . . . rode me heavy in the saddle like a sack of potatoes. ”

What two things are being compared in this example?

--	--

Invent your own **similes** comparing the following items with something from your imagination:

a) the roll of thunder

b) a choir singing

C. Investigate

The troopers came along the horselines in full service order, two bandoliers, respiratory, haversack, rifle and sword. (Chapter 7) Investigate one of the following items and describe its appearance and purpose: **bandolier – respiratory – haversack**.

D. Write the plural of the following nouns from these chapters. Careful – you may wish to consult a dictionary for some of these words.

Singular Noun	Plural Noun
sensitivity	
man	
hoof	
rifle	
enemy	
farewell	
army	
sabre	
valley	
misery	



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Chapters 9 - 10



Before you read the chapters:

In the coming chapters Joey and Tophorn experience more of the horrors of war. The famous scientist, Albert Einstein, once said, *I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.* What do you think he meant by this statement?



Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list that means the same or nearly the same as the underlined word(s).

gait	wield	sustain	indignant	formidable
sacrilege	compensate	devastating	adulation	extricate

1	My teacher Mrs. Inez was very angry when her laptop went missing.	
2	Will you recompense your sister for the money that she loaned you?	
3	That horse has a most peculiar manner of walking .	
4	Sampson's strength was quite awesome .	
5	Most people holding to that particular faith would find it profane to engage in such a line of work.	
6	He will exert his authority in a manner that most people will find offensive.	

7	Do you think the Littlest Hobo will be able to free himself from the clutches of the villains?	
8	Everyone was amazed that Jon was able to continue his demanding pace for such a long time.	
9	The incredible enthusiastic acclaim enjoyed by Justin Bieber caught even him by surprise.	
10	The defeat of the cavalry unit was absolutely crushing .	

Questions



1. Describe Herr Hauptmann's personality.

2. What specifically would Joey and Tophorn's responsibilities be as cart horses?

3. Who was given the assignment of managing the horses when they were getting used to pulling a cart?

4. What did Herr Hauptmann mean when he said, *That's what this war is all about, my friend. It's about which of us is the madder.*

5. Joey states that despite the nightmare that he and Tophorn were living through, they were surprisingly happy. Why do you think this was the case?

6. How did Emilie and her grandfather make life easier for Joey and Tophorn?

7. What three tragedies had the grandfather endured because of the war? Why was he worried about Emilie?



Activities

A. The Iron Cross.

In Chapter Ten Joey and Tophorn are “unofficially” awarded the **Iron Cross** for their bravery by the admiring German soldiers – *the first English in this war to win the Iron Cross*. Winning the Iron Cross was a great honor for a German soldier. Using resources in your school library or on the Internet, complete the following sentences with the correct information regarding this important medal of honor.



The first Iron Cross was awarded during the _____ Wars in the year _____. Traditionally the Iron Cross is the color _____ with _____ trim. The Iron Cross from the First World War bears the year _____. The cross borne by the Teutonic _____ in the 14th century. The Iron Cross of the First World War had _____ grades. During this war approximately _____ million 2nd class Iron Cross medals were awarded.

B. Copy out any three sentences from these chapters and underline the **verbs**.

C. Rewrite the following sentences putting in the **correct capitalization** and **punctuation**.

joey and tophorn were captured by the german army

--

do you think that billy bishop was the greatest pilot of world war one

--

sam gary and barb will be attending sunset park public school in september

D. The events of Chapter 10 must have been quite upsetting to the grandfather who had already endured so much because of the war. Here is another quote by Albert Einstein: ***It is my conviction that killing under the cloak of war is nothing but an act of murder.*** Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?



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Chapters 11 - 12



Before you read the chapters:

Joey and Tophorn have come to enjoy the support and kindness of Emilie and her grandfather, but the reader is also made to understand that this will probably not last forever. Predict what you think will happen next in our story.

--	--

ABC Vocabulary:

Solve the following word search puzzle using the words from the **Word Box**. Remember – the words can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal, forward or even backward!

Word Box:

meagre	exuberant	convoy	harness	consultation
bivouacked	emerge	halters	interminable	permanent
incongruous	flaxen	apparent	motley	dismiss

Q	W	E	E	R	D	E	K	C	A	U	O	V	I	B
T	I	N	C	O	N	G	R	U	O	U	S	T	Y	U
C	O	N	V	O	Y	D	F	N	E	X	A	L	F	S
M	F	E	T	G	P	H	S	S	E	N	R	A	H	S
O	Z	X	X	E	C	E	V	B	R	N	M	K	L	I
T	E	U	E	S	R	D	R	F	G	E	H	J	K	M
L	N	B	M	E	M	M	M	M	B	V	T	C	X	S
E	E	E	E	R	N	Y	I	V	A	F	G	L	Z	I
Y	J	R	R	G	B	H	P	N	O	N	I	U	A	D
G	H	A	G	A	V	S	U	I	A	J	E	Y	T	H
H	G	N	E	E	P	X	Y	O	O	B	V	N	R	T
D	E	T	D	M	C	P	T	P	L	K	L	A	T	E
C	O	N	S	U	L	T	A	T	I	O	N	E	Q	W

Questions



1. Why did Emilie prefer to ride Joey than Topthorn? How did Topthorn feel?

2. How was the artillery troop that visited the farm different from the orderlies and doctors that Joey had known before?

3. One of the jobs that horses had in World War One was pulling the large artillery guns from place to place. Why do you think such guns would be an advantage in a battle?



4. What orders did Emilie give to the soldiers before turning the horses over to them?

5. Think of an appropriate adjective that would describe the personality of each horse.

Heinie - _____

Coco - _____

6. Describe Coco's eventual fate.

7. What seemed to be the only motive the major had for keeping his horses alive?



Activities

A. Beside each of the following words from these chapters, write its **root word**.

recognized		peaceful	
screaming		stopped	
harnessed		intently	
unhappy		pulling	

B. Homonyms

This chapter includes a number of examples of words that have homonyms – **horse** – **hoarse** and **allowed** – **aloud** are just two examples. Two words are **homonyms** if they are pronounced or spelled the same way but have different meanings.

Think of two more examples of homonyms and use each in a sentence showing the meaning of each word quite clearly.

Example 1

Homonyms	Sentence
1	
2	

Example 2

Homonyms	Sentence
1	
2	

C. Observation Chart

War Horse is a novel filled with sights and sounds. Look back over the novel and get as many examples of the five senses, then list them in the chart below with a brief description about where each was found. You may wish to choose your examples from one particular scene, or include a number of different scenes.

Sight	Sound	Touch	Taste	Smell

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Chapters 13 - 14



Before you read the chapters:

What do you think will happen to Topthorn? After reading these two chapters come back and review your answer to see how close you were to the actual events described in Chapters 13 and 14.

ABC Vocabulary:

Write a **sentence** using the following words. Make sure that the meaning of the word is clear in your sentence.

optimism –

sporadic –

tedious –

protestations –

exhilaration –

apparent -

empathy -

implicit -

abomination -

instinctive -

prostrate -

Questions



1. Investigate: Joey believes there was **empathy** between the old man and Tophorn. What is the difference between the words **sympathy** and **empathy**?

2. What effect did spring have on the soldiers?

3. Mad Old Friedrich reveals to the horses that he really isn't crazy. What made the other soldiers believe he was mad, and what were his actual motives for behaving in this manner?

4. What character said the following about horses: *there's divinity in a horse*?

5. Describe Tophorn's death.

6. Do you think Joey might have been at least partially responsible for Friedrich's death? Explain your response.



Activities

A. Find three examples of the following parts of speech from these chapters.

Nouns	Verbs	Adjectives

B. A Letter Home

It has now been some time since Joey last saw Albert. Imagine that it was possible for Joey to dictate a letter to his first master. Use your imagination and write a letter to Albert letting him know something of your experiences since his father sold him to Captain Nicholls. Describe the major events of your wartime experiences, mentioning some of the more memorable characters you have met. Your letter should be at least a half-page in length and follow the proper format of a friendly letter.

C. Try to reassemble the word parts listed below into ten compound words found in these chapters of *War Horse*.

head	every	Top	thorough	stood	with	man	side	thing	day
mid	horse	bred	thorn	some	along	out	under	rail	one

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

D. The Five W's Chart

Choose a major event from the novel and then complete the following chart with the important details.

What happened?
Who was there?
Why did it happen?
When did it happen?
Where did it happen?

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Chapters 15 - 16



Before you read the chapters:

Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear. (Mark Twain) The quotation above is Mark Twain's definition of courage. How would you define *courage*?

ABC Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list that means the same or nearly the same as the underlined word(s).

inexorable	intermittent	stagnant	contemplate	anticipation
crescendo	interspersed	impenetrable	parapets	reconciliation

1	The soldiers leaned out over the protective wall and showered boulders onto the enemy below.	
2	The expectation of Santa's arrival was almost more than we could bear.	
3	The old widow was faced with an unyielding bill collector who would not bend to the woman's pleas.	
4	Ranger fans were scattered in amongst the crowd, causing quite a commotion.	
5	The rain showers started and stopped for a good part of the afternoon.	
6	The shallow pool of water lay foul in the glare of the midday sun.	
7	It is most difficult to understand feelings as deep as the prince had for her.	

8	The granite was so dense that it broke even our strongest drill bits.	
9	My brother and I came to an agreement regarding our father's last will and testament.	
10	The symphony's apex featured a piano solo by Maestro Petersen.	

Questions



1. The sergeant introduced in Chapter 15 has quite a thick accent and some very unusual expressions. Put the following expressions into your own words (you may have to check the context to be sure):

I want every one of your eyes skinned	
and there's pea-soup flaming London smog out there	
and seeing how Jerry likes to come a -knocking on our little dugouts	

2. What was it that finally caused Joey to leave Tophorn's side. Describe the results of his panic.

3. Describe what caused the injury to Joey's leg.

4. Joey spends a good part of these chapters wandering in **no man's land**. Describe what no man's land looked like.

5. From what country was the brave British soldier in Chapter 16? _____

6. Describe how the German soldier and British soldier decided who would get Joey.

7. What is your impression of the two soldiers who came out to rescue Joey from no man's land?

b. Why do you think none of the soldiers in the trenches tried to shoot either man?



Activities

A. The Tank.

World War I saw the introduction of tanks to modern warfare. One of these awesome weapons made an appearance in the life of Joey in Chapter 15. Do a little investigation of your own to find out more about battle tanks. Research at least four pertinent facts about tanks. This information might include characteristics; history (i.e. inventors); modern tanks compared to those of WWI, etc. To complete your investigation include a sketch of a tank – bonus if you can find a picture of a tank from WWI to sketch



B. Copy out any three sentences from these chapters and underline the **adjectives**.

C. The events of Chapter 16 required great courage on the part of the two soldiers involved in Joey's rescue. What do you think might have motivated the men to perform such an act of courage? Do you personally feel that it was worth the risk for them to have made such a decision? Support your answer with an explanation.



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Chapters 17 - 18



Before you read the chapters:

State whether you agree or disagree with the following statement made by Major Martin, and state why you feel this way: "... an horse hasn't got to evil in him 'cepting any that's put there by men."

ABC Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

euphoric	irrational	inexplicable	console	incredulous
esteem	immaculate	inquisitive	confirm	vigorous

1. The well-groomed prince was _____ in every sense of the word.
2. Considering the dilapidated condition of the old jalopy, how he actually got it to start was completely _____.
3. Everyone in the village held the war hero in high _____.
4. We spent a good part of the morning attempting to _____ his little sister when her dog wandered away and couldn't be found.
5. The Boston Red Sox fans were _____ when their team won the World Series.
6. The country's prime minister made a number of very unpopular and _____ decisions.

7. The army would not _____ whether her husband was missing in action.
8. It seemed rather _____ that anyone would believe her outlandish tale.
9. My eighty-five year old grandfather enjoys a _____ swim before breakfast each morning.
10. "Be careful," the teacher warned her class. "If you are too _____, people might think you are being nose-y."

Questions



Indicate whether the following statements are **True** or **False**.

1. According to the Sergeant, Joey was the only horse in the whole war brought in alive from no man's land.	True or False
2. Albert was unable to recognize Joey at first because the horse was covered with mud and blood.	True or False
3. Albert knew he would recognize Joey for the following features: he was a red bay with a black tail and mane, with a white cross on his forehead and four white socks which were even to the last inch.	True or False
4. Albert informed Joey that Captain Nicholls had only been wounded and was recovering in the infirmary.	True or False
5. Albert described Joey as the only friend he had before the war.	True or False
6. The owl whistle confirmed to Albert that it was indeed Joey.	True or False
7. After being cleaned up by David and Albert, Joey found himself basically ignored and lonely.	True or False
8. After Albert's father sold Joey he stopped his drinking sessions and treated his wife better.	True or False
9. Joey became ill because a piece of shrapnel had mistakenly been left inside his wound and it had become infected.	True or False
10. Joey's odds of recovering from tetanus were actually quite good.	True or False

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Chapters 19 - 21



Before you read the chapters:

Which event in the novel did you enjoy the most? Why?

ABC Vocabulary:

Draw a straight line to connect the vocabulary word to its synonym. Remember to use a straight edge (like a ruler).

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1. convalescence | a. thoughtful |
| 2. ominous | b. console |
| 3. dispatched | c. plot |
| 4. profound | d. gaiety |
| 5. indignant | e. recovery |
| 6. conspiracy | f. border |
| 7. perimeter | g. sent |
| 8. consummate | h. angry |
| 9. commiserate | i. ultimate |
| 10. levity | j. foreboding |

Questions



1. The **climax** of a story usually occurs at the most exciting or important point of the plot. Where do you think the climax of *War Horse* occurs?

2. Investigate: Research the exact date that World War I ended.

--

3. How had David been killed? Describe Albert's reaction to this event.

4. What did the army determine would be the fate of Joey and the other horses?

5. What did the major decide to do about this?

6. Why was it so important that Monsieur Cirac not win the bidding for Joey?

7. Why was the old Frenchman so determined to buy Joey?

8. What important condition did the old man require of Albert before he turned Joey over to him?



Activities

A. A Book Cover

Create a **book cover** for *War Horse*. Be sure to include the title, author, and a picture that will make other students want to read the novel.



B. Collage

Make a collage from magazine pictures illustrating a scene from the novel, or events and characters from the entire novel.



C. A Book Review

Now is your chance to share the novel with others. Write a review of *War Horse* describing in no more than one paragraph an outline of the plot, and then in another paragraph how you enjoyed the novel (or didn't) and why. (Please don't give away the ending!) This review can be posted to a website like www.amazon.com for others to enjoy.



D. Lights, Camera, Action!

A popular version of the novel *War Horse* has been made into a movie by filmmaker Steven Spielberg. Suppose that you had been the casting director for this exciting project. Who would you cast for the principal roles:

- Albert –
- Albert's father -
- Albert's mother –
- Major Nicholls –
- Friedrich -
- The old Frenchman –
- Emilie –
- David –
- Sergeant Thunder –
- Major Martin –
- Monsieur Cirac -
- _____ –
- _____ –



You may wish to choose Hollywood actors for this task, or for some fun, limit your choices to people in your school (teachers and students). Beside each selection write a brief explanation for your choice.

E. Sequence Chart

List the main events of *War Horse* in the order in which they occurred.

<i>War Horse</i>
First
Next
Next
Next
Next
Next
Next
Next
Next
Last

Answer Key



Chapters 1-2

Vocabulary:

1. dispose 2. intricate 3. stamina 4. consolation 5. venture
6. conviction 7. dismissive 8. deliberate 9. resolution 10. instinctive

Questions:

1. *Answers will vary* (i.e. the day of the horse sale).
2. A farm
3. Horse sale (auction).
4. *Answers will vary.*
5. She is disappointed in her husband's accomplishments.
6. *Tarka the Otter.*
7. The horse had to be trained to plow as straight as an arrow within a week or he'd be sold.
8. Money worries and his guilt over not being able to serve in the war.
9. *Answers will vary.* It appears that Albert's dad is going to sell Joey.

Activities

A.

A	Stallion	Male horse 4 years old or older
B	Filly	Female horse under the age of 4
C	Foal	A horse of either sex less than a year old
D	Mare	Female horse 4 years or older
E	Colt	Male horse under the age of 4
F	Yearling	A horse of either sex between 1 and 2 years old

Chapters 3-4

Vocabulary:

	I		D		L		C		P	A	R	I	S	H			R	
	N	A	R	R	A	C	O	T	T		E		O		H		E	
	S		A		N		P				A		B	O	A	R	S	
S	T	A	B	L	E		S	P	A	N	S		E		L		P	
	I			U			E		L		S		R	O	T		I	
E	N	S	U	R	E				A	B	O	U	T			E	T	
	C			E					E		R			E	R	I	E	
N	T					Z			B	R	E	E	D		V			
I		U		V		O			E	T	A		I		I	R	I	S
C	O	N	C	E	D	E			L		S	O	S		D		N	
H		I		H		Y			G	U	Y		P	L	E	A	S	E
O		O	M	E	N				I			S	O	O	N		I	
L	E	N		M		A	C	U	T	E		S	O	T			S	
L				E		R		M		W	H	E	N				T	
S	H	O	R	N		T					I				B	R	E	N
				T				R	E	G	I	M	E	N	T			D

Questions:

1. The mortgage on the farm.
2. *Answers will vary* (i.e. Zoey did the farm work, while Joey didn't contribute to the running of the farm).
3. Albert was to return the Saddleback boar. Mr. Narracott was planning on selling Joey.
4. Snug-fitting trousers used for horse-riding.
5. Guilt. Relief at having money to save the farm.
- b. He too was upset.
6. He was too young. Come back in a year and enlist.
7. He would take personal care of him. *Answers will vary* (i.e. Joey was probably going to be in great danger as a war horse.)

Chapters 5-6

Vocabulary:

1. calamitous
2. contentment
3. predisposition
4. tassel
5. humdrum
6. prohibited
7. progressed

Questions

The riding school changed Joey from a working farmhorse into a cavalry mount in only a few short weeks. Corporal Samuel Perkins was responsible for training Joey. He was a hard man, feared by troopers and horses alike. Captain Nicholls would often sketch when he visited Joey. The Captain predicted that the war was going to be very nasty indeed. Nicholls felt that one machine-gun could wipe out an entire squadron of cavalry. The Captain worried that he might not have the courage when he faced the enemy for the first time. The Corporal, on the other hand, worried that Joey would not learn to accept discipline when in battle. Captain Stewart felt that his horse, Topthorn, had Joey beat when it came to stamina. After a final week of training Joey was carried over to France in a converted liner. Aboard the ship it felt like the soldiers were on their way to some great military picnic. When they reached land the soldiers were sobered by the sight of the many wounded men waiting to return to England. Every hour of their march took them closer to the thunder of guns. It was Topthorn who gave Joey courage during these difficult times. The British army were to ensure that the enemy did not outflank them. The first battle that Joey experienced was against a battalion of infantry. During the battle Captain Nicholls was killed. More than a quarter of the squadron had been lost.

Activities

- B. cavalry – clear – degree – devotion – doing – done – donna – door – doubts - dreaded -
C. general – colonel – major – captain – lieutenant – sergeant – corporal - private

Chapters 7-8

Vocabulary:

- 1 – e 2 – h 3 – a 4 – j 5 – b 6 – i 7 – c 8 – d 9 – f 10 – g

Questions:

1 - T 2 - F 3 - T 4 - T 5 - F 6 - F 7 - T 8 - T 9 - F 10 - T

Activities

D. sensitivities - men - hooves - rifles - enemies - farewells - armies - sabres - valleys - miseries

Chapters 9-10

Vocabulary: 1 - indignant 2 - compensate 3 - gait 4 - formidable
5 - sacrilege 6 - wield 7 - extricate 8 - sustain 9 - adulation 10 - devastating

Questions:

1. *Answers will vary* (i.e. he was gruff, outspoken, demanding, loved horses).
2. Ambulance transport. Bringing the wounded from the trenches to the hospital.
3. Herr Hauptmann.
4. *Answers will vary.*
5. *Answers will vary.*
6. Rubbed them down; saw to their sores; fed the; watered them; groomed them.
7. Emilie's parents and brother had been killed in the war, now she had pneumonia.

Activities

- A. Napoleonic - 1813 - black - white - 1914 - Knights - three - four
- C. Joey and Tophorn were captured by the German army.
Do you think that Billy Bishop was the greatest pilot of World War One?
Sam, Gary and Barb will be attending Sunset Park Public School in September.

Chapters 11-12**Vocabulary:**

					D	E	K	C	A	U	O	V	I	B
	I	N	C	O	N	G	R	U	O	U	S			
C	O	N	V	O	Y			N	E	X	A	L	F	S
M		E	T		P		S	S	E	N	R	A	H	S
O		X	E		E			R						I
T		U	E		R		R		E					M
L	N	B	M	E		M		M			T			S
E		E	E	R			I		A			L		I
Y		R	R	G				N		N			A	D
		A	G	A					A		E			H
		N	E	E	P					B		N		
		T		M		P					L		T	
C	O	N	S	U	L	T	A	T	I	O	N	E		

Questions:

1. Tophorn was too big and she would sometimes fall off. Tophorn didn't mind.
2. *Answers will vary* (i.e. they were battle-hardened men who were not as kind and thoughtful to Joey and Tophorn).

3. *Answers will vary.*
4. Feed them and treat them well, and she wanted them back.
5. *Answers will vary* (i.e. Heinie – calm, sedate. Coco – nasty, bad-tempered).
6. Coco was struck by a piece of shrapnel and had to be destroyed.
7. Without the horses the gun would not be able to be moved.

Chapters 13-14

Vocabulary: *Answers will vary.*

Questions:

1. *Answers will vary.* To be empathetic usually means that the person has felt what the object of his/her empathy has felt whereas with sympathy, this is not necessarily the case.
2. They were cleaner, happier and treated the horses better.
3. He talked and laughed to himself. To keep himself for going mad.
4. Rudi.
5. *Answers will vary.*
6. *Answers will vary* (i.e. by stubbornly refusing to leave Tophorn he put Friedrich in danger).

Activities

C. railhead – everyone – Tophorn – horseman – alongside – midday – thoroughbred – something – without - understood

Chapters 15-16

Vocabulary:

1 – parapets 2 – anticipation 3 – inexorable 4 – interspersed 5 – intermittent 6 – stagnant
7 – contemplate 8 – impenetrable 9 – reconciliation 10 – crescendo

Questions:

1. *Answers will vary.*
2. Several tanks made their appearance. He ran from the site in blind panic.
3. He got tangled in a coil of barbed wire.
4. *Answers will vary.*
5. Wales.
6. They flipped a coin.
7. *Answers will vary.* b. *Answers will vary.*

Chapters 17-18

Vocabulary:

1 – immaculate 2 – inexplicable 3 – esteem 4 – console
5 – euphoric 6 – irrational 7 – confirm 8 – incredulous 9 – vigorous 10 – inquisitive

Questions:

1. T. 2. T. 3. T. 4. F. 5. T. 6. T. 7. F 8. T 9. T 10. F

Chapters 19-21**Vocabulary:**

1-e 2-j 3-g 4-a 5-h 6-c 7-f 8-i 9-b 10-d

Questions:

1. *Answers will vary* (i.e. when the old man turns Joey over to Albert for one penny).
2. Nov. 11, 1918.
3. He was killed by a stray artillery shell. Albert was devastated.
4. They would be auctioned off in France.
5. He decided they would take a collection of money and see if they could buy Joey for Albert.
6. He was a butcher and would be buying Joey to butcher him.
7. He had promised his granddaughter that he would.
8. That he would keep the memory of his granddaughter Emilie alive.