WESTCHESTER
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Rising World Literature Summer Reading

Summer 2026

1. **Read this quote from the author about his novel:**

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.

- Erich Maria Remarque

2. Read *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque, paying careful attention to how Remarque describes / portrays violence and death. Whenever you come across a particularly moving or vivid scene that involves violence or death, note your observations (about the writing) and reaction (to what's happening in the story).

3. Choose **one** of the scenes you took notes on while reading and do the following work. **Write your answers in complete sentences.**
   (a - c = a possible 5 points each; d = a possible 10 points for a total of 25 possible points)

a. What is the setting of this scene? (Remember setting = time and place.) What words are used to describe the setting? What impact does the word choice have on the image you have in your head of the scene?
b. What characters are present in this scene? What physical and emotional state are they in? How are they reacting with and to each other? Do they speak? If so, what is the dialogue like? What actions do they take?
c. How is the violence or death portrayed and described? Be specific. Give me quotes and discuss the word choice. What impact does this portrayal have on your emotional reaction to the scene? Why do you think this is?
d. Finally, write one well-developed paragraph explaining what this scene tells the reader about the generation of men who were destroyed by war. What do you learn from this scene that helps you

understand what it must have been like for young men to fight in World War I? What about the writing and the story helped you come to this understanding.

Please direct all questions to Mr. Morelli (frank.morelli@westchestercds.org).