

Literature of War Assignment

Value: 10 marks

Due:

Introduction:

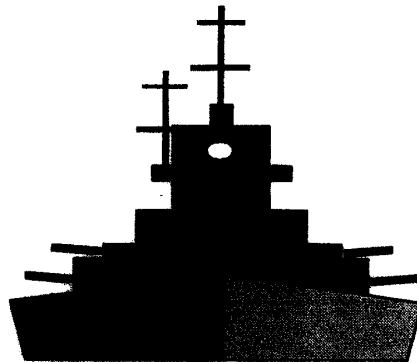
Literature can provide a window into the mind of another person. While we can never hope to fully understand the experiences of another human being, we can often gain valuable understanding of people and events by carefully considering the written work of others.

Most Canadians today are fortunate in not having experienced war at first hand. To comprehend it, we must turn to those who have done so. This can be done by interviewing veterans or civilians who have experienced war, or it can be handled through empathetic reading of war literature.

Assignment:

Select one piece of literature dealing with World War I. Answer the following questions about it. You may choose from one of the examples provided or you may locate one by yourself.

1. Who wrote it? Was the author directly involved in the conflict or is this a work of the imagination? Library or internet research is needed. If you are unable to locate this information, please say so, rather than leaving this area blank.
2. Why did he or she write it?
3. Summarize the content of the work in one or more paragraphs. What is it about?
4. What is the dominant emotion in this work?
5. What did you learn about the nature of war from studying this work?



Websites

BBC Modern History World War I page:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwone/>

The BBC also has a special news page, entitled “In Flanders Fields the Poppies Blow,” with excellent links:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/special_report/1998/10/98/world_war_i/207872.stm

The Literary Links page from the Western Front Association:

<http://www.wfa-usa.org/new/lcliter.htm>

Look at Oxford University’s “Virtual Seminars for Teaching Literature” which deals with First World War material, at:

<http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ltg/projects/jtap/>

Also from Oxford is “Women’s Poetry & Verse From WWI”:

<http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ltg/projects/jtap/tutorials/intro/women/>

First World War.com’s “Poetry” page is excellent, at:

<http://www.firstworldwar.com/poetsandprose/index.htm>

So too is their “Vintage Media” page, which links to songs of the era:

<http://www.firstworldwar.com/poetsandprose/index.htm>

BYU’s First World War Links page is at:

<http://net.lib.byu.edu/~rdh7/wwi/links.html>

Try “Poetry of the First World War” at:

<http://www.scuttlebuttsmallchow.com/wwilinks.html>