

Private Peaceful

By Michael Morpurgo

Key theme: Cowardice

Author Purpose: To convey the horror of war

Tier 2 words: bewildered, obscenities, recruits, sullen, weary, beckoning, leering, jeered, glowered, inspected, snarl, desolate, gulped

Key vocabulary: gunfire, regiment, rifle, firestep, barbed wire, unburied, shell, trenches, No Man's Land

Other texts to read alongside:

War Game by Michael Foreman

One Minutes Silence by David Metzenthén & Michael Camilleri

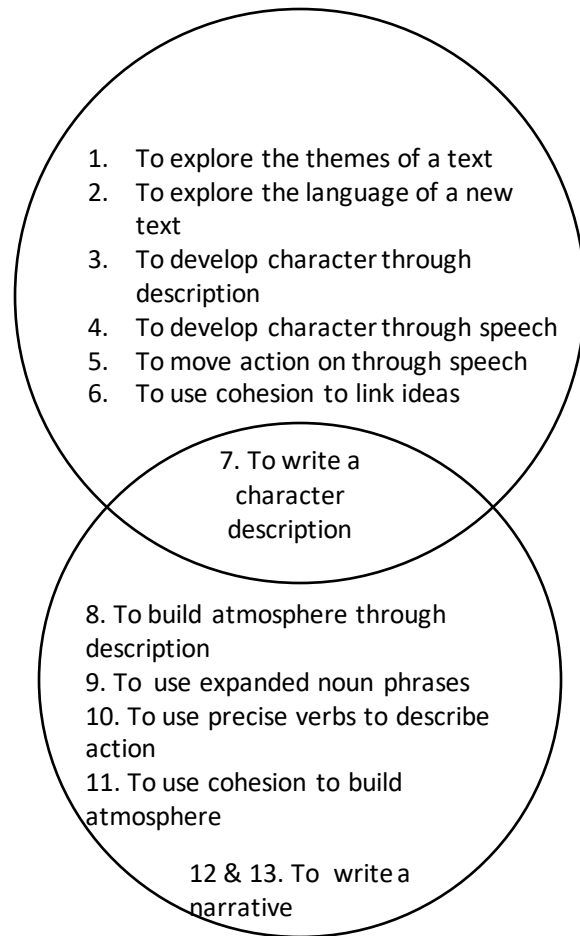
Where the Poppies Grow/The Christmas Truce by Hilary Robinson & Martin Impey

And the Soldiers Sang by J Patrick Lewis and Gary Kelley

The Christmas Truce by Carol Ann Duffy & David Roberts

A Song For Will by Hilary Robinson & Martin Impey

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SC: Use description, action and speech to show character

Use cohesion - pronouns and fronted adverbials to link ideas

SC: Use cohesion - pronouns, fronted adverbials
Use relevant and precise figurative language, expanded noun phrases and verb choices

1. Theme: Cowardice. Discuss alternative front covers, pictures and quotations. Chn build ideas into consensus circle. Discuss bravery and cowardice – use fed in facts to stimulate conversation.
2. Key vocabulary: bewildered, obscenities, recruits, gunfire, regiment, sullen, weary, beckoning, leering, jeered, glowered, inspected, snarl, desolate, gulped, rifle, firestep, barbed wire, unburied, wasteland, shell, trenches
3. Show not tell focus. Use freeze frames to generate vocab to describe Mr Munnings's appearance. Add description from Trunchbull texts that is applicable for Mr Munnings.
4. Recap SC for speech. Model basic speech, interrupted speech and adding a subordinate clause to the end of the sentence. Analyse a good dialogue broken up with narrative. Learners show character through dialogue between cat (Mr M character) and mouse (Tommo character)
5. Model moving the narrative on, through new information/ character's reactions. Learners practise with Tommo and Charlie's end of school dialogue after bullying.
6. Model use pronouns to avoid repetition and names to avoid ambiguity. Show how to use fronted adverbials to link ideas, so that reader is aware of where characters are, so how action links. Learners write description of Charlie defending Tommo from bullying.
7. Character description of when Tommo joined the army and met a sergeant named Sergeant 'Horrible' Hanley. HAPs challenge – show Tommo as being worried and Charlie as being confident
8. Describe pictures, writing around them using fig language. Recap on and identify differences between similies, metaphors, personification. Create a bank of these, which are then used to make complete sentences to label pictures in pairs or as a group. Imagination station/Immersive.
9. Focus on ensuring expanded noun phrases are specific and precise. Model specific patterns e.g. adjective noun, adjective and adjective (dark-eyed men, sullen and weary,) and adjective noun preposition noun the spitting flame of machine guns. Write a paragraph about the trenches.
10. Language focus on verbs to describe movement. Key vocabulary lesson: scurried, stifled, slithered, skittered, recoil, shuffled, surged, cowered, raged, hauled.
11. Compare two paragraphs. Lead learners to realise that the 1st is better due to it being cohesive. Write a cohesive paragraph about rescuing something from a burning building.
12. Write description of when Tommo first arrived in the trenches. Watch the War Game to generate ideas. Provide structure:
 - 1st paragraph - description of trenches. what they can see, hear, smell etc as they go to get ready
 - 2nd paragraph - Peaceful and Hanley speech. They will go over the top.
13. 3rd paragraph - back in the trenches. As a class, teach and do quick practise of past perfect tense to show has already happened and Tommo has reflected on it e.g. had hauled.
Model for GD ways to change formality: e.g. Tommo pulls out a formal letter from his mother/a recruitment officer to look at before he goes over the top to remind him about what he's doing/that she's proud of him etc.
Thinks back about the propoganda poster that he saw and screws it up.
Provide opportunities to read and share work.

SC: Use **description**, **action** and speech to show character

Use cohesion – **pronouns**, **fronted adverbials**

Looking around in confusion, **the bewildered recruits** stood in the middle of the parade ground in **their ill-fitting uniforms**. The air echoed with the din of barked orders and shrieked **obscenities**. **Cracking his knuckles**, Sergeant Hanley **glowered** at his line of new troops as **he** inspected them. **He** was not a big man, but **he** had **eyes of steel**, and a **lashing snarl in his voice**.

He stopped in front of Charlie, finding fault with his cap. **Leaning towards him**, **until they were almost nose to nose**, he **bellowed** into Charlie's face, "What on earth is wrong with you, Peaceful? You're a blot on creation. What are you?"

Charlie was not fazed. He replied in **a firm, clear voice**, utterly without fear, "Happy to be here, Sergeant."

Hanley twitched. His **red, whiskered face** began to shake. **Next to Charlie**, Tommo trembled, but Charlie stood still. He held his head up high and confidently met Hanley's gaze.

Hanley asked again, "You're a blot on creation. What are you?"

"Happy to be here," Charlie repeated, trying not to smirk.

SC: Use cohesion to link sentences

together **pronouns**, **fronted adverbials**

Use **relevant and precise figurative language**, **expanded noun phrases** and **verb choices**

Keeping their heads low to avoid gunfire, Tommo and his regiment **scurried** behind Sergeant Hanley. They **stifled** their curses as they **slithered** and **slid** through the **soup-like mud**, holding onto one another to stop falling. **A river of rats skittered** over their boots, but they were now too tired to **recoil** in horror. A line of soldiers passed them, coming the other way, **dark-eyed men, sullen and weary**. There was no time for questions, no time for answers, **but the haunted, hunted look in their eyes** told Tommo all he needed to know. **The men had been to hell and back**.

"Peaceful, get your worthless carcass to me now and stop dawdling. We've got a war to win," stated Hanley, beckoning him to the front of the line.

"Yes-es sir, what can I do?" replied Peaceful, looking around nervously. He **shuffled** his feet, worried, as the sergeant's faced turned into **a leering smile**.

"I want you to lead the attack on the enemy trenches," jeered Hanley, pointing out into **the desolate waste of No-Man's land**. Tommo gulped. He prepared his rifle and shook himself ready as he climbed the firestep. As he prepared to go over the top, he saw beyond the wire, **crows bickering** over the unburied and **a lone tree holding up its arms in defeat**. Then the whistle went. **With one huge heave**, Tommo broke from cover and **surged** onto **the blasted wasteland**.

An hour later, Tommo cowered in the dugout, cradling his injured leg and shaking from head to toe. He could not believe what he had witnessed. A storm of shelling had **raged** around him and he had seen men crying out, but had heard nothing over the explosions. Then, when he had believed he was already dead, Charlie had grabbed him and **hauled** him to his feet, pushing him back to the trenches. **Now**, all around him, he could the see his **battered regiment, gasping and wide-eyed**.