

Red Badge of Courage: Figurative Language and Imagery

Directions: Watch the video clip and then follow the instructions on how to make a figurative language chart. Identify, explain, and analyze 10 examples of figurative language in the text.

Start by watching the video clip titled [“Crane’s Portrayal of the Realities of War.”](#) The narrator suggests that *The Red Badge of Courage* represents a significant development in American Literature for many reasons. It was one of the first novels to portray the emotions of war as experienced by a young soldier on the front lines. The novel is also important for the ways in which Crane uses irony, figurative language, color imagery, and symbolism to depict the fears and uncertainties that Henry Fleming feels as he tries to measure himself against the other soldiers.

As you locate and analyze examples of Crane’s use of figurative language, you will begin to understand his larger purpose in writing the novel. Be sure to include the actual passage, your explanation of the literary device that Crane has used in the passage, and your analysis of the significance of the words in relation to the novel. Here is a sample:

Passage	Explanation	Analysis
...and at night, when the stream had become of a sorrowful blackness, one could see across it the red, eyelike gleam of hostile campfires set in the low brows of distant hills (1).	This passage is a metaphorical description of the Confederate enemy. When Crane describes the enemy campsite, he uses facial images—the “red, eyelike gleam” and the “low brow” to suggest that the Confederate army appeared more like the giant head of a monster to the young soldiers in Henry Fleming’s regiment.	This passage is taken from the first paragraph of the novel, and it the first hint that Henry Fleming’s fears go deeper than merely fighting enemy soldiers. He seems obsessed with the whole concept of war, and it sometimes seems to him that he is fighting against more powerful and monstrous forces of nature.