

The Red Badge of Courage Study Guide

Directions: While reading *The Red Badge of Courage*, answer the following questions. You do NOT have to write your responses in complete sentences, but make sure that your answers are accurate and thorough. Every class you should be prepared to hand in your study guide for a surprise completion or accuracy check. Since I may ask you to hand in your study guide answers on any given day, write your answers on a separate sheet of paper. Not all chapters will be graded, but the study guide will help you prepare for reading quizzes and aid you in class discussion, as we analyze the text.

Chapter 1

1. Why has the youth “burned” to enlist?
2. Why does the youth go back to the seminary in his uniform? How would you characterize this action?

Chapter 2

3. Once again, the rumor of moving out to fight proves false. Why does Henry view this as an “irritating prolongation”?
4. Between what two opinions does Henry waver?

Chapter 3

5. In what way is it still a regiment of rookies?
6. Why is Henry so surprised at the behavior of the loud soldier?

Chapter 4

7. What does Henry observe on the faces of men as they stampede from the battle?
8. Henry’s outfit, the reserves, did not retreat. What is the “composite monster” that Henry and his comrades have not seen yet, but the stampeding soldiers have seen?

Chapter 5

9. What effect does the continued noise, smoke, and fighting have on Henry?
10. What happens to the one man who fled?

Chapter 6

11. In what ways are Henry’s fears magnified by turning his back on the fighting?
12. When Henry spots the division general, what important news does he overhear?

Chapter 7

13. Why is he angry with his former comrades?
14. As Henry walks in this very peaceable part of the forest, what does he stumble upon that upsets him?

Chapter 8

15. Why does Henry find it ironic that he is running in the direction of the battle?
16. What question does the other soldier ask Henry that confounds and upsets him? Why does the question have this effect on him?

Chapter 9

17. Who does the ghost-like soldier turn out to be?
18. What makes this scene in the forest very realistic?

Chapter 10

19. Referring to his wound, the tattered soldier says, "It might be inside mostly, an' them plays thunder." In what way is Henry's wound inside?
20. What makes Henry's desertion of the tattered soldier a particularly cruel act?

Chapter 11

21. As Henry sees a mass of men and wagons coming down the road from the front line, he feels vindicated. Why?
22. Why does Henry hope that his division is defeated?

Chapter 12

23. Henry grabs a man and tries to ask a question. What does the man do, and why does he do it?
24. What is ironic about the red badge of courage that Henry now has?

Chapter 13

25. As Henry approaches his regiment's fire, he is tempted to go off and hide rather than face the ridicule he expects from his comrades. What force, though, propels him into camp?
26. When Henry meets Wilson on sentry duty, what lie does Henry tell?

Chapter 14

27. As Henry awakens, what does he mistake his sleeping comrades for?
28. At the end of this chapter, what remark of Wilson's does Henry get upset with? Why?

Chapter 15

29. Wilson is embarrassed. Why?
30. What does Henry imagine when he gets home?

Chapter 16

31. What does the lieutenant tell Henry?
32. At this point, what is the condition of the men in this regiment? And, what does this image mean?

Chapter 17

33. How does Henry fight in this battle?
34. What is the lieutenant's opinion of Henry?

Chapter 18

35. How do Henry and Wilson feel about the remarks made about their regiment?

Chapter 19

36. What gets the regiment moving again?
37. What figure of speech does Crane use to describe Henry's feelings for the flag?

Chapter 20

38. Knowing he has little hope of victory, on whom does Henry want revenge?
39. What is the result of this battle?

Chapter 21

40. When they return to their own lines, why are they mocked by the soldiers in the other regiment?
41. Why is the officer who called them "mule drivers" upset with them?

Chapter 22

42. As the new color bearer, what resolve does Henry make?
43. In this new battle, what appears to be happening to the regiment?

Chapter 23

44. How do the men react to the order to charge?
45. What has Wilson been able to get?

Chapter 24

46. In recalling all that has happened, what are Henry's first thoughts and feelings?
47. As he looks at and listens to his comrades, what does he observe?

The Veteran

48. When does this section of the story take place?
49. What does Fleming do about the fire?