The Red Badge of Courage: The First Modern War Novel
Author: Stephen Crane

- Born November 1, 1871 in Newark, NJ
- 14th child of a Methodist minister
- Started to write stories at 8 years old
- By 16 he was writing articles for the *New York Tribune*
- After high school, spent 1 semester at Lafayette College and another at Syracuse University- was asked to leave
Stephen Crane: Early Writings

- 1891- Moved to New York, worked as a free-lance writer and journalist
- 1893- Lived among the poor in the Bowery slums of New York to research his first novel *Maggie: A Girl Of The Streets*
Stephen Crane: War Writings

- 1895- Second novel, *The Red Badge Of Courage* brought him international fame

- Crane's collection of poems, *The Black Rider*, also appeared in 1895, brought Crane better reporting assignments as a war correspondent in combat areas
Stephen Crane: Last Years of His Life

- 1898- Crane settled in Sussex, England. During these restless years Crane refined his use of realism to expose social ills.

- June 5, 1900- Crane died of tuberculosis, which was worsened by malarial fever he had caught while he was reporting in Cuba.
Protagonist: Henry Flemming

- “youth” who enlists in the Union army
- has romanticized ideas about war
- quickly realizes that war is not what he expected
- must battle the “rebels” as well as his own doubts & fears
Writing Style

• The unique way an author adapts language to ideas
• Stephen Crane employed a few writing styles:
  • Realistic
  • Naturalistic
  • Impressionistic
Realism

- a literary movement that began during the 1870’s that was prompted by the Civil War
- depicts life as it really is
- extremely detailed description of the life of ordinary people
- more pessimistic view of the world
- a reaction against romanticism - a movement where the stories were about extraordinary people & there was always a happy ending
Naturalism

• era that developed out of realism

• people’s lives are shaped by forces of nature and/or society

• human beings do not have control over their fate
Impressionism

- originally developed in France during the 1870’s
- began in the U.S. in the late 1800’s, early 1900’s
- overall impressions of a scene or object; not exact details (like you see in realism & naturalism)
- similar to impressionistic paintings
Realism vs. Impressionism

Realism
• clear
• detailed

Impressionism
• gives the impression
• not the clear picture