

Quotation Dilemmas

Example One

Irony is shown in the novel at the beginning of Chapter Six, when the men see a stack of coffins leaning against a school as they are moving up to the front. Noting this, the men talk amongst themselves:

“That’s a good preparation for the offensive,” says Muller astonished.

“They’re for us,” growls Detering.

“Don’t talk rot,” says Kat to him angrily.

“You be thankful if you get so much as a coffin,” grins Tjaden, “they’ll slip you a waterproof sheet for your old Aunt Sally of a carcass” (99).

This exchange demonstrates...

Example Two

Paul’s inability to reconnect with people in civilian life is shown in a conversation he has with his mother while he is home on leave. Paul’s mother has asked him what combat is like, and Paul finds himself unable to answer her. Paul responds to his mother, saying:

I shake my head and say: “No, mother, not so very. There are always a lot of us together so it isn’t so bad” (161).

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-or-

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Example Three

Paul feels let down by the advice of his elders. An example of this is seen in the words of his school teacher, Kantorek. Paul recalls how Kantorek used to, “glare at us through his spectacles and say in a moving voice, ‘Won’t you join up, comrades’” (11).