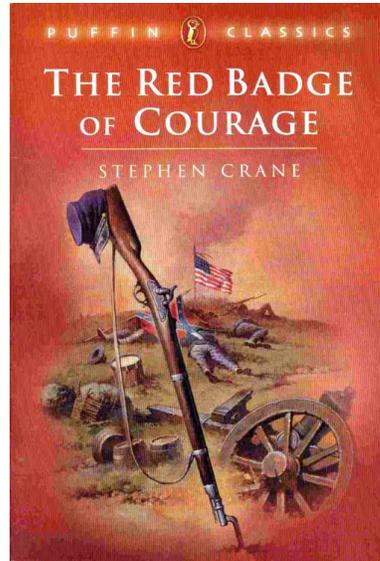


The Red Badge of Courage



By

Stephen Crane

A Novel Study
by Nat Reed

The Red Badge of Courage

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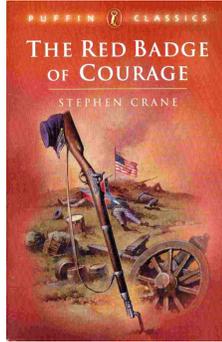


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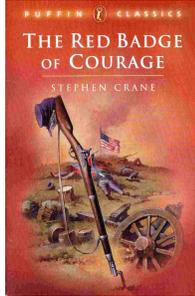
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About the author: Nat Reed has been a member of the teaching profession for more than 30 years. He is presently a full-time instructor at Trent University in the Teacher Education Program. For more information on his work and literature, please visit the websites www.reedpublications.org and www.novelstudies.org.

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Suggestions and Expectations

This 67 page curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on two chapters of *The Red Badge of Courage* and is comprised of four different activities:

- Before You Read
- Vocabulary Building
- Comprehension Questions
- Language and Extension Activities

A principal expectation of the unit is that students will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and oral communication, as well as in reasoning and critical thinking.

Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to

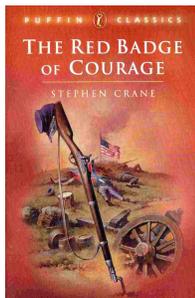
- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters . . . respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

Students can work on the activities at their own pace. Every activity need not be completed by all students. A **portfolio cover** is included as well as a **Student Checklist**.

Themes which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include the American Civil War, courage and sacrifice, leadership, manhood, self-preservation, perseverance, overcoming adversity, personal growth, facing one's fears.

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List of Skills

Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words / phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homonyms
3. Identifying / creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify *personification*.
7. Working with anagrams.
8. Use of singular / plural nouns
9. Listing compound words
10. Identifying parts of speech
11. Determining alphabetical order
12. Identification of root words
13. Identify/create *similes*

Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Identify the climax of the novel.
4. Five W's Chart

Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Protagonists
3. Relating personal experiences
4. Comparing two Characters

Creative and Critical Thinking

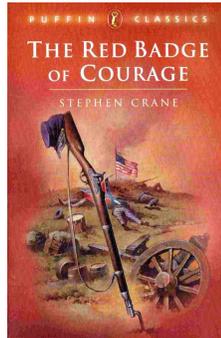
1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Write a letter to a friend
4. Complete an Observation Chart
5. Conduct an interview
6. Write a description of personal feelings
7. Write a book review
8. Complete a KWS Chart

Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Design a cover for the novel
4. Design an Information Card

The Red Badge of Courage

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Synopsis

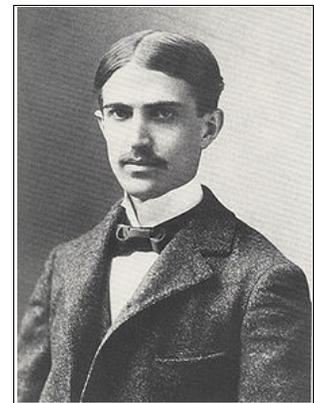
Written by Stephen Crane at the age of twenty-one, *The Red Badge of Courage* is one of the greatest war novels of all time – so groundbreaking that critics consider it to be the first work of modern American fiction. Although Crane never witnessed warfare, *The Red Badge of Courage* is a realistic and terrifying account of the Civil War and the fear that a young soldier must face on the battlefield as well as within himself. [The Publisher]

Check out the clips for **The Red Badge of Courage**
– movie and book trailers - on YouTube

Author Biography *Stephen Crane*

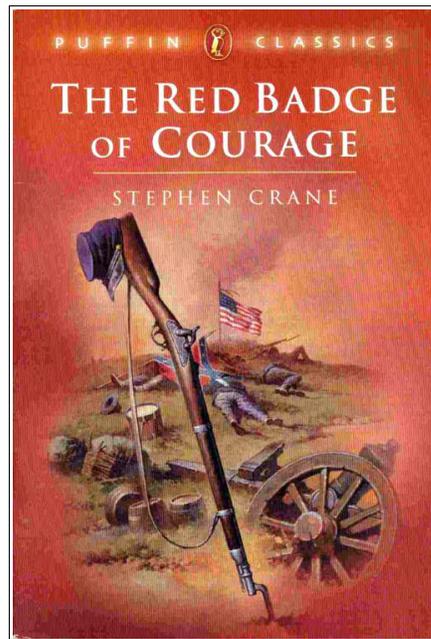
Stephen Crane (November 1, 1871 – June 5, 1900) was an American author. Prolific throughout his short life, he wrote notable works in the Realist tradition as well as early examples of American Naturalism and Impressionism. He is recognized by modern critics as one of the most innovative writers of his generation.

The eighth surviving child of Methodist Protestant parents, Crane began writing at the age of four and had published several articles by the age of 16. Having little interest in university studies, he left school in 1891 to work as a reporter and writer. Crane's first novel was the 1893 Bowery tale *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets*, generally considered by critics to be the first work of American literary Naturalism. He won international acclaim in 1895 for his Civil War novel *The Red Badge of Courage*, which he wrote without any battle experience.



Courtesy of Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephan_Crane

The Red Badge Of Courage

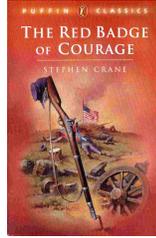


By Stephen Crane

Name: _____

The Red Badge of Courage

By Stephen Crane



Chapter 1 - 2



Before you read the chapter:

The **protagonist** in most novels features the main character or “good guy”. The protagonist of *The Red Badge of Courage* is Henry Fleming, an eighteen year old soldier fighting in the American Civil War. Think back on some of your favorite characters from past novels you have read or movies you’ve seen. What do you think makes for an especially interesting protagonist?



Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

resolutely	monotonous	elaborate	disdain	intricate	extravagant
lurid	impregnable	persistent	intimate	vindication	skedaddle

1. The convict received complete _____ when the jury declared him innocent of all charges.
2. Working on an assembly line in McGruger’s factory was so _____ that an eight hour shift seemed to go on forever.
3. Her quilt pattern was so _____ that it took several weeks to complete.
4. My aunt considered the horror movie to be very _____ and in extremely bad taste.
5. When the farmer caught us in his garden, we all decided it would be best to _____.

6. Edinburgh Castle was thought to be _____ by the Scots.
7. Buying her a diamond necklace was considered by many to be a very _____ act.
8. Most _____ did he deny the serious accusations made against him.
9. There must be a good deal of trust in a relationship before two people can become _____ friends.
10. Most inventors agree that one must be very _____ in order to achieve final success.
11. The thieves came up with quite an _____ scheme for breaking into the mansion.
12. Mr. Burns treated all of his employees with _____ and disrespect.

Questions



1. It isn't until well into the novel that we learn the name of the protagonist. Until then, the author simply refers to him as "the youth". Why do you think he does this?

Good to Know

In another popular American novel, *Sounder*, by William H. Armstrong, the author does not reveal the name of the protagonist for the entire novel, simply referring to him as "the boy".

2. Describe the setting at the beginning of Chapter One.

3. Describe the source of the turmoil in Henry's mind during the first two chapters. What would you say is his chief concern as he thinks about going into battle?

4. **Investigate:** There are a number of military terms in the first few chapters of the novel. Using resources in your school /classroom library or on the Internet, define the following terms:

a	pickets	
b	cavalry	
c	infantry	
d	regiment	
e	brigade	
f	pontoon bridge	

5. Describe how his mother's reaction to his enlistment in the army had been a disappointment to him.

6. Henry found camp life in the army to be very monotonous. T or F

7. Why do you think the tall man's *serene unconcern* dealt Henry a measure of confidence?

8. Describe the general reaction of the soldiers to the soldier trying to steal a horse from the farm girl. What do you think prompted them to react in this manner?



Language Activities

A. Rank and File.

A number of army ranks are mentioned in *The Red Badge of Courage*. Soldiers like Henry, soon understand the significance of different army ranks, but for the general public, they can be quite confusing. Using resources in your school library or on the Internet, arrange the following army ranks in order, from the least to the greatest:

major	
private	
general	
corporal	
colonel	
sergeant	
lieutenant	
captain	

B. Personification is giving human qualities to something that is not human. The first paragraph of the novel provides the reader with at least two examples of personification: "...the army awakened, and began to tremble with eagerness..." The army reminds the reader of a person – *awakening* and *trembling*. Later in the paragraph the author writes, "... and at night when the stream had become of a sorrowful blackness..." Here the stream is described as being *sorrowful*.

a) Why do you think personification is a literary device used by many authors?

b) Create your own example of personification.

--

c) Bonus: Keep your eyes open for another example of personification. When you find one, come back to this page and record it below. (*There are dozens in the novel.*)

C. Anagrams

An **anagram** is a word that is formed by changing the order of the letters of another word. For example, the letters in the word **PAN** can also form the word **NAP**. Follow these directions to form the anagrams:

a) read the clue in the right-hand column.

b) Using the word in the left-hand column move the letters around in any order, but you must use all the letters.

Each of the words in the left-hand column are found in the 1st chapter of our novel.

Word	Anagram	Clue
enlist		Hear.
words		A weapon.
rope		Tiny opening on the surface of one's skin.
pride		Levered.
shoes		One often sees these on a lawn or garden.
sharp		Musical instruments.

D. Research - Famous General of the American Civil War

In Chapter Two the author mentions the great French general, **Napoleon Bonaparte**. The American Civil War also produced its share of great and famous generals – in both the Union (North) and Confederate (South) armies. From the list below select one general. Using resources in your school library or on the Internet, investigate the general of your choice and describe four interesting facts about the general and/or his accomplishments during the war to share with your colleagues. With your teacher's permission you may choose a general not included on this list.

Union Army	Confederate Army
Ulysses S. Grant	Robert E. Lee
George McClelland	Stonewall Jackson
Ambrose Burnside	J.E.B. Stuart
George Armstrong Custer	James Longstreet
John Reynolds	A.P. Hill



Extension Activity

Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel.

Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in the first two chapters of ***The Red Badge of Courage***. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper.

1	2
3	4
5	6