***All Quiet on the Western Front* Close Reading Exam**

*Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.*

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We are in a crater, the English are coming down obliquely, they are turning our flank and working in behind us. We are surrounded. It is not easy to surrender, fog and smoke hang over us, no one would recognize that we wanted to give ourselves up, and perhaps we don't want to, a man doesn't even know himself at such moments. We hear the explosions of the hand-grenades coming towards us. Our machine-gun sweeps over the semicircle in front of us. The cooling-water evaporates, we hastily pass round the case, every man pisses in it, and thus we again have water, and are able to continue firing. But behind us the attack crashes ever nearer.

A few minutes and we are lost.

Then, at closest range, a second machine-gun bursts out. It is set up in a crater alongside us; Berger has fetched it, and now the counterattack comes over from behind; we are set free and make contact with the rear.

Afterwards, as we lie in comparatively good cover, one of the food-carriers reports that a couple of hundred yards distant there lies a wounded messenger-dog.

"Where?" asks Berger.

The other describes the place to him. Berger goes off either to fetch the beast in or to shoot it. Six months ago he would not have cared, he would have been reasonable. We try to prevent him. Then, as he goes off grimly, all we can say is: "You're mad," and let him go. For these cases of front-line madness become dangerous if one is not able to fling the man to the ground and hold him fast. And Berger is six feet and the most powerful man in the company.

He is absolutely mad for he has to pass through the barrage; but this lightning that lowers somewhere above us all has struck him and made him demented. It affects others so that they begin to rave, to run away--there was one man who even tried to dig himself into the ground with hands, feet, and teeth.

It is true, such things are often simulated, but the pretense itself is a symptom. Berger, who means to finish off the dog, is carried away with a wound in the pelvis, and one of the fellows who carry him gets a bullet in the leg while doing it.

Müller is dead. Someone shot him point-blank in the stomach with a Verey light. He lived for half an hour, quite conscious, and in terrible pain.

Before he died he handed over his pocket-book to me, and bequeathed me his boots--the same that he once inherited from Kemmerich. I wear them, for they fit me quite well. After me Tjaden will get them, I have promised them to him.

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We have been able to bury Müller, but he is not likely to remain long undisturbed. Our lines are falling back. There are too many fresh English and American regiments over there. There's too much corned beef and white wheaten bread. Too many new guns. Too many aeroplanes.

But we are emaciated and starved. Our food is bad and mixed up with so much substitute stuff that it makes us ill. The factory owners in Germany have grown wealthy;--dysentery dissolves our bowels. The latrine poles are always densely crowded; the people at home ought to be shown these grey, yellow, miserable, wasted faces here, these bent figures from whose bodies the colic wrings out the blood, and who with lips trembling and distorted with pain, grin at one another and say: "It is not much sense pulling up one's trousers again--"

Our artillery is fired out, it has too few shells and the barrels are so worn that they shoot uncertainly, and scatter so widely as even to fall on ourselves. We have too few horses. Our fresh troops are anaemic boys in need of rest, who cannot carry a pack, but merely know how to die. By thousands. They understand nothing about warfare, they simply go on and let themselves be shot down. A single flyer routed two companies of them for a joke, just as they came fresh from the train--before they had ever heard of such a thing as cover.

"Germany ought to be empty soon," says Kat.

We have given up hope that someday an end may come. We never think so far. A man can stop a bullet and be killed; he can get wounded, and then the hospital is his next stop. There, if they do not amputate him, he sooner or later falls into the hands of one of those staff surgeons who, with the War Service Cross in his button-hole, says to him: "What, one leg a bit short? If you have any pluck you don't need to run at the front. The man is Al. Dismiss!"

Kat tells a story that has travelled the whole length of the front from the Vosges to Flanders;--of the staff surgeon who reads the names on the list, and when a man comes before him, without looking up, says: "Al. We need soldiers up there." A fellow with a wooden leg comes up before him, the staff surgeon again says Al--"And then," Kat raises his voice, "the fellow says to him: 'I already have a wooden leg, but when I go back again and they shoot off my head, then I will get a wooden head made and become a staff surgeon'." This answer tickles us all immensely.

Based on the information in the passage, the reader can most clearly infer that…

1. the German soldiers aren’t very well trained
2. the German army is running out of resources
3. the German soldiers do not like doctors
4. the German army does not bury their dead soldiers.

Read to following dictionary entry.

***Oblique:*** *1. neither perpendicular nor parallel to a given line or surface; slanting; sloping. 2.(of a solid) not having the axis perpendicular to the plane of the base. 3. diverging from a given straight line or course.*

*4. indirectly stated or expressed; not straightforward*

As it is used in paragraph 1, which of the above definitions best matches the meaning of *obliquely*?

1. Definition 1
2. Definition 2
3. Definition 3
4. Definition 4

The passage contains all of the following except

1. Humor
2. Hyperbole
3. Personification
4. Irony

\*\*Which of the following quotes is the best example of irony?

1. *“Berger, who means to finish off the dog, is carried away with a wound in the pelvis, and one of the fellows who carry him gets a bullet in the leg while doing it.”*
2. *“Müller is dead. Someone shot him point-blank in the stomach with a Verey light.”*
3. *“For these cases of front-line madness become dangerous if one is not able to fling the man to the ground and hold him fast.”*
4. *“There's too much corned beef and white wheaten bread. Too many new guns. Too many aeroplanes.”*

Which of the following best expresses the main (controlling) idea of paragraph 15?

1. Staff surgeons don’t care about the soldiers.
2. The soldiers have no hope of going home.
3. The war is unfair to injured men.
4. The surgeons are only interested in getting medals.

In paragraph 16 how is the tone primarily revealed?

1. Through the use of dialogue.
2. Through the use of mood.
3. Through the use of humor.
4. Through the use of irony.

In paragraph 12 the quote: "It is not much sense pulling up one's trousers again--" reveals…

1. how resilient the men have become in their extreme environment.
2. how humor can make a bad situation seem better.
3. how much the soldiers are willing to sacrifice to win the war.
4. how ill the soldier have become from poor nutrition and sanitary conditions.

Which of the following quotes best shows how their time on the front lines is affecting the soldiers?

1. *“Six months ago he would not have cared, he would have been reasonable”*
2. *“It affects others so that they begin to rave, to run away--there was one man who even tried to dig himself into the ground with hands, feet, and teeth.”*
3. *“Müller is dead. Someone shot him point-blank in the stomach with a Verey light.”*
4. *“We have been able to bury Müller, but he is not likely to remain long undisturbed.”*