

## Syntax Practice

Read the following passage from Chapter 6, page 133 of *All Quiet On the Western Front*. Look for the following syntactical patterns; highlight and label:

Telegraphic (shorter than five words in length)

Short (Approximately five words in length)

Medium (approximately 18 words in length)

Long (30 words or more in length)

Ellipsis

Asyndetic

Anaphora

Parataxis

How long has it been? Weeks—months—years? Only days. We see time pass in the colourless faces of the dying, we cram food into us, we run, we throw, we shoot, we kill, we lie about, we are feeble and spent, and nothing supports us but the knowledge that there are still feebler, still more spent, still more helpless ones there who, with staring eyes, look upon us as gods that escape death many times.

Now explain how the syntactical *methods* Remarque chose affect the *meaning* and tone of the passage by choosing two of the patterns you noted above.

Pattern #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Effect on meaning and tone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Pattern #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Effect on meaning and tone \_\_\_\_\_

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Now, re-write the passage changing the last sentence to several short and hypotactic syntax and polysyndeton.

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How does this new syntactical method change the meaning and tone of the passage?

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Now identify, highlight, and label the syntactical methods used in the following passage and write a sentence that identifies how the syntactical method affects the meaning and tone of the passage.

From Chapter 10, p. 236

Then I grab the plate with the great pile of cakes and squeeze myself behind the house door. A hiss, a crash, and I gallop off with the plate clamped against my chest with both hands. I am almost in, there is a rising screech, I bound, I run like a deer, sweep round the wall, fragments clatter against the concrete, I tumble down the cellar steps, my elbows are skinned, but I have not lost a single pancake, nor even upset the plate.