



Student Anticipation Guide
The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane
Dover Thrift Editions, 1990

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Directions:

The following is a list of true or false statements. Circle the answer that best matches your **opinion**. There is no right or wrong answer. We will discuss your answers and opinions afterward. Do your best!

1. **T** **F** Sometimes wars must be fought to correct that which is not right.
2. **T** **F** Soldiers are scared to fight their enemies for the first time.
3. **T** **F** Soldiers are often compassionate and understanding of their enemy's cause.
4. **T** **F** Soldiers experience personal growth because of war.
5. **T** **F** Death is one of the consequences of fighting a war, and should not be feared.
6. **T** **F** War can create feelings of uncertainty and fear in an individual.
7. **T** **F** Soldiers have deal with the idea of their own mortality, or ability to die.
8. **T** **F** Soldiers at war do not develop any meaningful relationships with their comrades.
9. **T** **F** It is not necessary to experience things to have personal growth.
10. **T** **F** Soldiers will often confront their fear of death by leading charges against the enemy.



Anticipation Guide: Teacher Key
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Directions:

The following is a list of true or false statements. Circle the answer that best matches your **opinion**. There is no right or wrong answer. We will discuss your answers and opinions afterward. Do your best!

1. **T F** Sometimes wars must be fought to correct that which is not right.
Students will likely discuss various American wars (Revolutionary, Civil War, WWII, and War on Terror). Are there alternatives other than war? Should war be a last resort? What if our country is attacked (Pearl Harbor, 9/11)?
2. **T F** Soldiers are scared to fight their enemies for the first time.
It is likely that some students will have family members who have fought in war. It would be good to have a guest speaker or to read from some soldier's letters home expressing their fear. Is fear a normal reaction? What should soldiers do if they are afraid?
3. **T F** Soldiers are often compassionate and understanding of their enemy's cause.
Discuss the draft. Are soldiers who are drafted into war as supportive as those who choose to go to war? Some soldiers may be understanding of their enemy's cause, should they be? Can you have compassion for the enemy but not support them?
4. **T F** Soldiers experience personal growth because of war.
How might fighting a war help soldiers to grow personally? Is this growth always positive? Is this personal growth worth going to war to achieve?
5. **T F** Death is one of the consequences of fighting a war, and should not be feared.
Some people will always die in a war. Just because this is true, does it mean people shouldn't be afraid of death?
6. **T F** War can create feelings of uncertainty and fear in an individual.
Are people who experience uncertainty and fear "chickens"? Is it normal to feel these things during a war? Are soldiers the only people who have these feelings?
7. **T F** Soldiers have deal with the idea of their own mortality, or ability to die.
Some soldiers will definitely die during a war. Is it hard for soldiers to accept that they are mortal and may die? How should they deal with these feelings?

8. **T F** Soldiers at war do not develop any meaningful relationships with their comrades.

Most soldiers develop meaningful relationships with their comrades. They are willing to lay down their lives for each other. It would be good to have a guest speaker about this topic or to read from soldier's letters.

9. **T F** It is not necessary to experience things to have personal growth.

Is it possible to experience possible growth without experiencing things? Do you have to experience everything yourself to grow? Is it possible to learn and grow from other's experiences?

10. **T F** Soldiers will often confront their fear of death by leading charges against the enemy.

What do you do to confront your fears? If you were a soldier who was afraid to die, what would you do? Why would soldiers lead a charge if they were afraid to die? Do you ever do things you're afraid of because of peer pressure? It would be good to read from soldier's letters for this topic.



Anticipation Guide: Rationale
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Purpose:

Anticipation guides are a pre-reading strategy designed to allow the reader to make predictions about the text, and allow the teacher to assess the student's current knowledge and opinions about the subject. Anticipation guides prepare readers to read a text by asking them to respond to statements or questions that relate to themes from the text. Themes in The Red Badge of Courage include fear, maturation, heroism, and peer pressure. Either this assignment should be completed the day before, or on the day, students begin reading the text.

Directions:

1. Give a copy of the anticipation guide to each student.
2. Instruct the students that there are no wrong or right answers, but to answer honestly how they feel for each statement. Instruct the students that the class will be discussing their opinions.
3. Have the students mark true or false for each statement.
4. Give the students 5-10 minutes to complete the anticipation guide.
5. Depending on time, pick out the statements you would like to discuss first (particularly ones dealing with the issues of fear, maturation, and peer pressure).
6. Take about 20-30 minutes and have the class discuss their opinions and explain why they marked true or false for each one, giving support for their answers.
7. Begin reading chapter one as a class. When appropriate, discuss the anticipation guide in relation to the events of the novel.

Assessment:

To check for student understanding of the issues discussed in The Red Badge of Courage, the teacher will begin a class discussion by asking the questions on the teacher key. By the end of the discussion, students will have expanded their views and have a better understanding of the central themes of the novel.