

Name _____

Date _____

Block _____

The Red Badge of Courage Study Questions

1. What does Henry remember about leaving home?
2. How does Henry feel about the enemy?
3. Why is the dispute over when the regiment will move important?
4. How does Henry feel about his fellow soldiers and their attitude toward battle?
5. What is the significance of the colonel's shout, "Don't forget that box of cigars"?
6. What is the "serpent" this chapter (Chapter II) refers to?
7. How does the mood of the regiment contrast Henry's mood?
8. Why does Henry remember the cows at home with "a halo of happiness" about their heads?
9. How does Henry visualize fear?
10. Why does Henry feel he is in a "moving box"?
11. What is the "question" Henry wants revealed in the eyes of the dead enemy soldier?
12. What does Henry think of as the regiment prepares for battle?

13. Examine the description of war as “the red animal...the blood-swollen god.”
What does the metaphor reflect?
14. Why do the men pile up dirt and rocks?
15. What is the significance of Wilson’s giving Henry the packet?
16. Examine the dialogue which opens Chapter IV. How does it contrast the battle?
17. What childhood memory comes to Henry immediately before the enemy charge?
18. Describe Henry’s “battle sleep.”
19. What does Henry feel when he sees the blue sky and sun?
20. Describe Henry’s feeling as he runs.
21. How does Henry react to news that the line held?
22. What signs from nature does Henry use to condone his flight?
23. What is the significance of the corpse in the bower?
24. What metaphor describes the war in Chapter VIII?
25. What does the wounded Jim Conklin look like?
26. Describe the tattered man.
27. What does Henry wish for?

28. How does Jim's death affect Henry?
29. Interpret the line "The red sun was pasted in the sky like a fierce wafer."
30. How is Jim's corpse described?
31. Why does Henry abandon the tattered man?
32. How does Henry enviously imagine himself?
33. What will haunt him all his life?
34. How does he feel toward the dead?
35. How is Henry wounded?
36. What kind of man helps Henry back?
37. How is Henry received?
38. How has Wilson changed?
39. Why does Henry gloat over Wilson's packet?
40. How does Henry feel about himself now?
41. What is the significance of the soldier's comment "Mebbe yeh think yeh fit th' hull battle yesterday, Fleming"?
42. What does Henry complain about?

43. How does Henry feel about the foe now?
44. When the fighting begins this time, how does Henry behave?
45. How does Chapter XVII end?
46. What do Henry and Wilson hear on their way to get water?
47. How do Henry and Wilson react to this derision?
48. What does Henry feel this time after the first rush of the charge?
49. What heroic act does Henry perform?
50. How well does the regiment fight?
51. How is Henry rewarded for his efforts?
52. How does the regiment fight this time?
53. What does Wilson do?
54. As they march away, how does Henry view the battle?
55. What negative thoughts does he have?
56. What decision does Henry reach in evaluating his actions?
57. What natural scene follows the battle?