

Freewrite

What do you imagine war would be like? What do you think soldiers have to go through? How do you think this affects them?

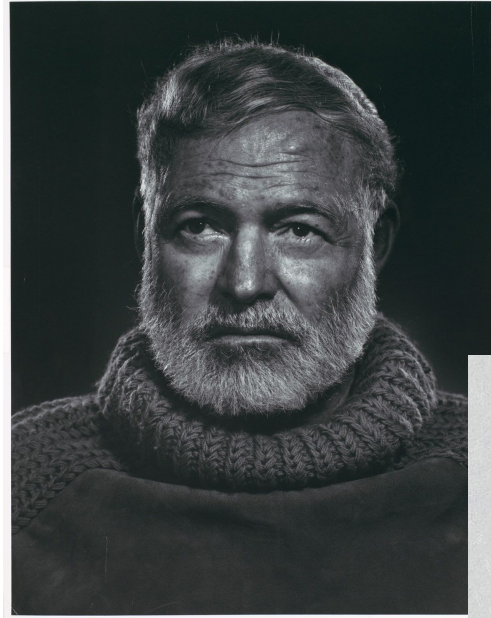


Ernest Hemingway

Hemingway published “Soldier’s Home” in 1925, a few years after he served in World War I.

“Soldier’s Home” depicts a soldier returning to his home town in Oklahoma in 1919 after serving in France in World War I.

Hemingway eventually committed suicide in 1951



“Soldier’s Home”



Soldiers in France would spend their days and nights in mud-filled trenches that reeked of urine, poisonous gas, we sandbags, and decomposing bodies.

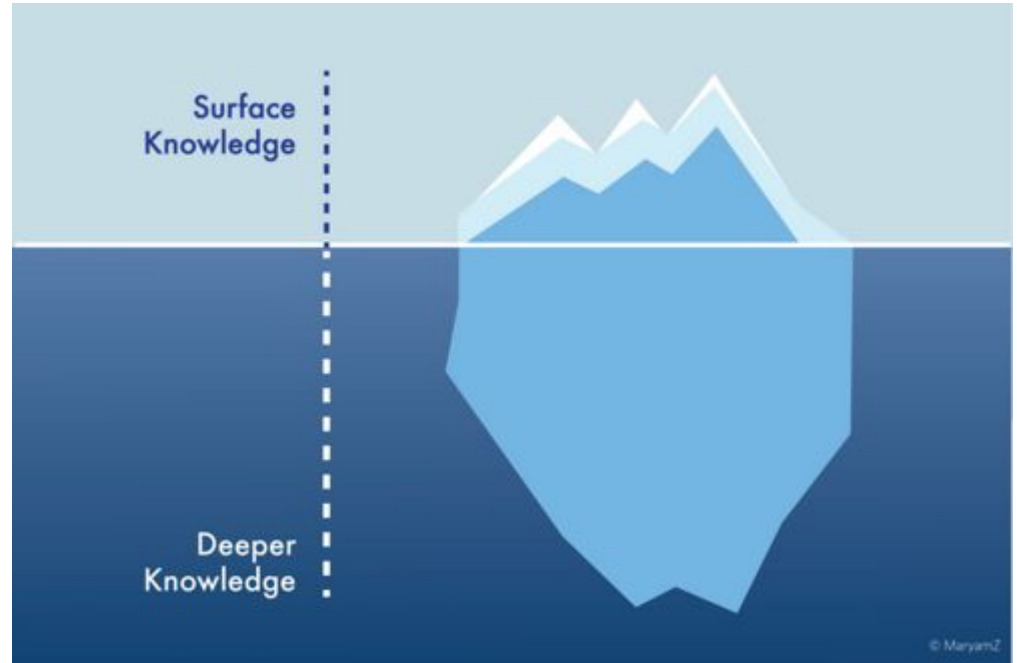
Soldiers fought against rain, cold, lice, rats, trench mouth, gangrene, and dysentery as well as constant threat of death from the enemy.

Many soldiers returned home with some form of psychological trauma or PTSD

“The Iceberg Theory”

“I always try to write on the principle of the iceberg. There is seven-eighths of it under water for every part that shows. Anything you know, you can eliminate, and it only strengthens your iceberg. It is the part that doesn't show.”

- Ernest Hemingway



“War is Kind” by Stephen Crane

War is Kind

by Stephen Crane

Do not weep, maiden, for war is kind,
Because your lover threw wild hands toward the sky,
And the aflighted steed ran on alone,
Do not weep,
War is kind.

Hoarse, booming drums of the regiment,
Little souls who thirst for fight,
These men were born to drill and die,
The unexplained glory flies above them,
Great is the battle-god, great, and his kingdom—
A field where a thousand corpses lie.

Do not weep, babe, for war is kind,
Because your father tumbles in the yellow trenches,
Raged at his breast, gulped and died,
Do not weep,
War is kind.

Swift blazing flag of the regiment,
Eagle with crest of red and gold,
These men were born to die and die,
Point for them the virtue of slaughter,
Make plain to them the excellence of killing
And a field where a thousand corpses lie.

Mother whose heart hung humble as a button
On the bright splendid shroud of your son,
Do not weep,
War is kind.

On your own, or with a partner, read the poem “War is Kind”. Write down 2-3 sentences responding to the poem. What do you think the author is trying to say?

“War is Kind” by Stephen Crane

Answer the following questions on your sheet of paper:

1. Crane repeats the phrase “war is kind”. Is this really what he thinks of war? What imagery does he use in the poem to support your answer?
2. What effect does the speaker achieve by saying “war is kind” instead of just saying “war is awful”?



Soldier's Home Vocabulary

Actuality (n.)

Fraternity (n.)

Apocryphal (adj.)

Hamper (v.)

Atrocity (n.)

Hysteria (n.)

Committal (n.)

Nausea (n.)

Corporal (adj.)

Shuck (v.)

Feud (n.)

