

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR
ERICH MARIA REMARQUE, *THE ROAD BACK*¹

1. Why does Remarque's picture of quietness at the Front seem a bit overdone (11-12)?
2. Is the same true of the feeling of a lack of realism at the ending of the War (18-21; cf. 34, 25)?
3. Does Remarque use "quite" or "still" as an important theme (11, 14, 45, 82, 126, 144, 150, 158, 242, 246, 272, 294, 311, 330)? A unifying theme?
4. What function does the caricature of the Americans serve (26-28)?
5. Why does Remarque especially note early in the peace the soldiers' feelings of betrayal (36-38)?
6. Why does Remarque single out the music (42; cf. 46, 50, 56, 79, 85, 87, 101, 171-172, 186-187, 337). What makes music different than before the War? After the War?
7. What problems did the soldiers experience with closure (47ff.)?
8. Describe Remarque's use of movement from comradeship to being alone (50-51).
9. How does Remarque describe his experience back home as "there but not there" (68ff.)?
10. What about Remarque's use of flashbacks in the novel? Are they effective? Do they seem realistic?
11. How do the bed sheets provide Remarque some measure of comfort and security (87)?
12. In what ways does Remarque show disdain for staff military (112, 114)?
13. What is the new relationship of student/teacher after the War (121ff.)?
14. How were things "simpler at the Front" (140)?
15. How is the world at home recontextualized according to the world at the Front (140ff.)?
16. How do remembrances prior to the War break through and overcome remembrances of the War itself (190ff.)? How do they change as a result of the War?

¹*The Road Back: The Sequel to 'All Quiet on the Western Front'*, translated from the German by A. W. Wheen (1930; rpt.; New York: Fawcett Columbine, n.d.).

David W Fletcher, Fall 2001

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17. Explain Remarque's criticizing the War and its aftermath through the eyes of Georg Rahe (210ff.).
18. How does Remarque compare soldiers to farmers (242ff.)?
19. How does Ernst's past in the War affect his self-image and his role as a teacher of the young (252ff.)?
20. Explain Adolf Bethke and his unhappiness (282).
21. How do the ex-soldiers pronounce judgment on the court at Albert's trial?