

<p>“The army is based on that; one man must always have power over the other.” pg. 40</p>	<p>I wonder what it is about human nature that allows everyone to desire power. Another thought is, would there be war without this desire?</p>
<p>“It is Chance that makes us indifferent.” pg. 101</p>	<p>My interpretation is that chance can make us anything. Winning the lottery could make you happy, while losing a loved one could do the opposite. I think what he means to say is chance determines fate.</p>
<p>“At the front there is no quietness and the curse of the front reaches so far that we never pass beyond it.” pg. 121</p>	<p>This is ironic because the title implies the front is a quiet place; however, we know it is not.</p>
<p>“A man dreams of miracles and wakes up to loaves of bread.” pg. 153</p>	<p>Paul is pessimistic in this sense. He says our dreams may be fantastic, but reality is ordinary.</p>
<p>“A glass of beer stands in front of me, I’ve learned to drink in the army. The glass is half empty, but there are a few good swigs ahead of me...” pg. 164</p>	<p>Another quotation to prove Paul’s pessimism. The idea is that because of his experiences on the front, he is being asked to mature too quickly. We can see this when he says “I’ve learned to drink in the army.”</p>
<p>“When I see them here, in their rooms, in their offices, about their occupations, I feel an irresistible attraction to it, I would like to be here too and forget about the war; but also it repels me, it is so narrow, how can that fill a man’s life, he ought to smash it to bits...” pg. 169</p>	<p>You have to agree with Paul in some sense being that these men who have decided to stay home opposed to fighting have such a limited scope of things. He does come off as jealous, though, and maybe the war has done that to him.</p>
<p>“The main point is you have to stand stiff yourself.” pg. 203</p>	<p>Early in the text, the soldiers talk about who they have to respect. One of them goes on to say the only important thing is you have to respect yourself.</p>
<p>“My state is getting worse, I can no longer control my thoughts.” pg. 222</p>	<p>This is the first incident in the novel in which we witness Paul killing an opposing soldier. Paul kills him out of fear. It’s clear he never wanted to, and even goes to measures to try and save him as he thinks about the other soldier’s life outside the military. Paul is very empathetic and his mind is very liberated.</p>
<p>“A little room at the corner of the building. Whoever is about to kick the bucket is put in there. There are two beds in it. It is generally called the Dying Room.” pg. 257</p>	<p>It’s rather like life in a way. The dying room metaphorically representing the concept of aging.</p>
<p>“I am young, I am twenty years old, yet I know nothing of life but despair, death, fear, and fatuous superficiality cast over an abyss of sorrow.” pg. 263</p>	<p>As a reader, we have to be continuously reminded that the characters in this novel are very young, yet they have the knowledge of death and despair that a person in their 60’s or 70’s may have. In a way, the war has robbed them of their youth.</p>

