

TEEN LIFE IN 1914



From the movie
WAR HORSE, in theaters
December 25, 2011

Life for a teenager during World War I was often stressful. Families were faced with the possibility of fighting for their countries, and boys in their teens often joined the army to fight. Some even lied about their age so they could become soldiers. Even for those who didn't fight, the world was changed greatly by the Great War.

Look at the chart below to compare what it was like in the United States during the war and today.

Look Deeper

It was tough to be a teen in 1914, but that doesn't mean that they didn't find ways to have fun! Research different ways that young people relaxed in the early 1900s, then compare that to what you and your friends do today.

Create a chart like the one below to compare and contrast books, music, movies, and other teen entertainment.

About *War Horse*

War Horse by Michael Morpurgo is the story of a horse named Joey and a teenager named Albert. Described as "a powerful story of the truest of friendships in the worst of wars," *War Horse* was the runner-up for the Whitbread Award and will be released as a feature film on December 25, 2011.

	World War I	Today
President	Woodrow Wilson	Barack Obama
Education	In 1918, every state in the country required students to finish elementary school.	Some states require students to attend school until they turn 18, others range from 14 to 17.
Social Changes	Women in the United States were not allowed to vote.	All citizens 18 and older can vote.
Price of Milk	\$0.36 per gallon	\$3.30 to \$3.70 per gallon
Transportation	In 1918, 1 out of 13 families owned a car or a truck.	The average family now owns 2.28 vehicles.
Communication	In 1919, it took a letter 3 days to travel by air and train from Paris to Casablanca.	Emails, texts, and tweets travel around the world instantly.



DRAMATIZING HISTORY

Use this tool to help you outline your scene!

Understand the Background

Book You Selected: _____

Scene Page Number(s): _____

What happened before this scene? _____

What happens after this scene? _____

Set the Scene

Characters: _____

Setting (time/place): _____

Costumes/props needed: _____

Wants and Needs

Describe what each character wants and needs. _____

Emotional Journey

Each character should take an emotional journey by starting with one point of view and then changing it in some way.

Conflict and Resolution

What is the conflict in this scene? _____

What is the resolution? _____

What do you want viewers to learn from this scene? _____



Sample scene for "Dramatizing History"

In a moving moment in *War Horse*, the horse Joey wanders into "no man's land," wounded and near the end of his strength. A Welshman and a German come together and toss a coin to determine who will rescue Joey.

MEMORIES & MEANING



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Does a particular smell bring you back to a favorite childhood activity? Does a song make you think of a particular family vacation? Objects, smells, and places can be powerful reminders of events or feelings from the past. Select an item or object in your house that has a special meaning to you and answer these questions.

1. *Why is this object important to you or your family?* _____

2. *How does the object make you feel?* _____

3. *Where did the object come from?* _____

4. *Is the object associated with any hardships or struggles?* _____

5. *Why has this object been saved?* _____

6. *What do you hope happens to this object in the future?* _____



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Tell the story:

Now document the story—this time from the object’s perspective! Choose any style (short story, poem, photo essay, art piece, etc.) and be creative.

INNER STRENGTH

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Characteristics such as loyalty, bravery, and resilience can help you build an inner core of strength. You use these characteristics to help you make decisions and guide you through tough times. But you're not the only one with these kinds of skills. Reach out to an adult you trust to discuss difficulties they have faced, and ask the following questions to help find out where they find their inner strength.

Questions to ask:

1. *What does the word resilience mean to you?* _____

2. *Can you talk about a time in your life when you had to be resilient?* _____

3. *In what way(s) did this event affect your life?* _____

4. *Are there moments in your life when you wish you had been more resilient?* _____

5. *Do you feel that people today need to be more or less resilient than in the past? Why?* _____

6. *How would you encourage others to be resilient in their own lives?* _____

Continue the discussion:

It can be tough to be resilient amid the pressures of school, friends, and even parents. Talk openly with trusted adults about the pressures you may face and how you can stand up to pressure.



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