

Grade Level: 9th

Summary:

As Mr. Snyder explains to his students, "There is pain and beauty and glory and fear in the words of a great book. For that matter, the emotions of mankind lie beneath the words of everything we read." In this "found poem task," students in Tom Snyder's 9th grade English class read literature and source documents as part of research related to the First World War. Students engaged in this unit of study read All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque, and go online to access source documents, such as letters, journals, autobiographies, diary entries and even an obituary. As they read, students locate emotionally charged words, phrases or passages, called *emoticons* and use the emoticons to create original "found" poems.

Technology Tools:

AlphaSmart 3000
Desktop computer
Internet access
Printer

Internet sites:

The Great War

<http://www.pitt.edu/~pugachev/greatwar/ww1.html>
<http://www.pitt.edu/~pugachev/greatwar/personal.htm>
<http://www.pitt.edu/~pugachev/greatwar/owen.html>
<http://www.pitt.edu/~pugachev/greatwar/vet.htm>
<http://www.pitt.edu/~pugachev/greatwar/poetrypage.htm>
<http://www.pitt.edu/~pugachev/greatwar/poetry.htm>

WWI Photos

<http://www.worldwar1.com/armory.htm#trenches>

Additional Resources:

Remarque, E.M., All Quiet on the Western Front

Step-by-step tasks:

Collect emoticons

1. Browse passages from All Quiet on the Western Front and the Pitt.edu sites to find and record at least 75 emoticons.
2. Use AlphaSmart 3000 File 8 to record all emoticons.
3. Print the list of emoticons and develop an organization scheme to categorize the list.
4. Use the AlphaSmart 3000 Files 2 – 6 to categorize the emoticons. For example:
 - a. File 2— phrases that show anger
 - b. File 3— phrases that are frightening
 - c. File 4— phrases that include feelings of joy or happiness
5. Continue with your organization scheme until you have 5 classifications for your emoticons.
6. Enter emotions that do not fit into any of your five categories into File 7.



AlphaSmart Tip: You can copy from one AlphaSmart file to another using familiar keyboard commands. Open your first file. Select the word or text you want to copy. To select a single word, use the **arrow keys** to place the cursor at the beginning of the word. Hold the **shift** key and use the **arrow key** to select the word. To select an entire line, hold the **shift** key and press the **down arrow key**. To select the entire file, use the **ctrl + a** or **cmd + a** keyboard command. Once you select the text you want to copy, use the **ctrl + c** or **cmd + c** keyboard command. This puts your text on the AlphaSmart 3000 clipboard. Now open the new file and use the **ctrl + v** or **cmd + v** keyboard command to paste your text.

Create "found" poems


1. Use the emoticons to create two "found poems." The poems do not have to use a rhyme or syllable pattern. Each poem must have a minimum of 7 lines and 30 words.
2. Power on the AlphaSmart 3000 and open File 1.
3. Enter the word "Title" as a place holder to use until you complete your found poem. Then enter the byline, "a found poem based on the book All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque and selected WW1 diaries, letters, and journals."
4. Create your poem. Use the emoticons in Files 2 – 6.
5. Spell check the found poem.
6. Read the entire poem and enter an appropriate title.
7. Print this draft of them poem.
8. Send the poem to a computer for formatting.
9. Select a font, add graphics if appropriate, and format the margins.
10. Print the final copy of the poem.
11. Repeat to create the second found poem.
12. Print and turn in :
 - a. Original list of 75 emoticons
 - b. Five categories of emoticons
 - c. The miscellaneous category of emoticons
 - d. The first drafts of both found poems.
 - e. The final copies of both found poems.
 - f. Citations for all works used in the found poem task.

Extension ideas:

This task is adaptable to any piece of literature. Teachers may want to compile completed poems and publish a class poetry book. This would work well with in conjunction with an Armistice Day celebration.

Home-to-school connection:

Students interview family members and neighbors. Some may have source documents from family members who fought in this war or in more recent conflicts.

 **AlphaSmart Tip:** This lesson plan works well with **Dana by AlphaSmart**. Students use Dana's **To Do List** to create **categories** and list emoticons. Use the **Details** button to add citations.

