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Pre-reading

Lesson 1
This Lesson aims to introduce the book and the setting (WW1) and talk about their expectations. All with the goal to get the students warmed up to start reading Warhorse.

Exercise 1. The title
Draw two word balloons on the board.
One will be about WAR and the other about HORSES.
Ask the students to vocalize there associations with the words given.

Exercise 2. The war
Briefly explain the war. There were two powers: Allied(green) and Central (red)
Tensions were everywhere, but war started after someone from Serbia killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria. Austria Hungary declared war with Serbia. Russia helped Serbia. Germany invaded France and Belgium and on the 4th august WW1 was a fact.
(see http://www.bbc.com/history/0/ww1/ for more information)
**Exercise 3. Animals in war**

What was significant about World War One? It is said to be the first modern war. They used trenches, machine guns, gas and other new weapons to fight each other. There were many discoveries made we still use today (tea bags, vegetarian sausages, tampons etc)

![Image of World War One soldiers and weapons]

BUT besides al that they also made use of animals. Show the clip about horses in WW1: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehSxpngPG8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehSxpngPG8)

Depending on the time and/or response of the students to this clip you can talk about other animals used and saluted for their effort: [http://juniorsblackburn.edublogs.org/2014/04/22/animals-as-wartime-heroes/](http://juniorsblackburn.edublogs.org/2014/04/22/animals-as-wartime-heroes/)

![Image of horses in WW1]

**Exercise 4. War Horse**

Introduce the book.

Explain that the book will read as a class reader. That there will be in class exercises, small homework assignments and time for silent reading. After finishing the book the will be a choice of three assignments, none of which is a book report!

Hand out the booklet and walk them through it. They can copy the words from the word balloon they think are important in the booklet. Then ask the question: With all you just heard in mind, what do you think the book is about? Draw a mindmap with four branches, as in the studentspack, and introduce the title WAR HORSE. Ask the students to vocalize there associations with the four branches of the mindmap.
Questions to help the students along can be:
- Who is the main character?
- Where will the story take place?
- What do you think the story will be about?
- Do you think you will like the book? Why? Or Why not?
- Do you feel like reading the book?

Exercise 5. Starting to read
Hand out the book. Remind them they don’t have to understand everything they read. The important part of reading a book is that you follow the main story, not every detail.

Go through the booklet with the students. The booklet gives them a choice of tools to keep track of the story. However they are required to participate in the discussions in class.

Exercise 6. Silent reading
Give the students the opportunity to start reading the book for at least 10 minutes before the end of class. Continue to offer them silent reading time at least twice a week.

Homework
Read chapters 1 to 6 and answer the question: ‘How important is it to have a friend in battle?’
While reading

*Lessons 2 - 4*

The book has been divided into sections for the students to read before class. In all three while reading lesson, and in the first post-reading lesson, creating a visual timeline of the story will be the one consistent factor. The other activity varies per lesson but is always bases on the question asked while reading the chapters. These questions are meant to get a conversation of discussion started.

**Lesson 2**
The students have read chapters 1 to 6 before the start of this class.
This Lesson aims to:
- establish the first piece of Joey’s timeline
- check comprehension and progress
- challenge students to think and talk about friendship (the importance, the advantages, etc)

**Exercise 1. Check**
During the silent reading in class you will have been able to check with students how they are progressing with the book. Before starting the ‘DO’ exercises asked students how they are experiencing the book so far.
- Have they managed to read the set chapters?
- Did they come across any problems?
- Are they liking or disliking the story so far?

**Exercise 2. Timeline**
The timeline exercise is meant to help students keep track of the storyline, especially where Joey is and on which side of the war his story is happening. It provides the teacher to put a focus on the differences and similarities in the way war happens, the way soldiers act in the war and how the war was felt by people living around it. It should be used as a ‘talk about’.

Before discussing the timeline in class give the students the opportunity to write in their booklet the three most important events in the set chapters.

The timeline can be made in a various of ways. The choice of medium depends on your own preferences and availability of resources. Ideally the timeline is a visual aid for the whole class but it can also be drawn up in their own notebooks.
Make sure that the switches between sides (German vs British) are clearly visible in the timeline. You will need that in the post reading lesson 5.

Examples:
A complete timeline online ([http://www.timetoast.com/timelines/war-horse-by-michael-morpurgo](http://www.timetoast.com/timelines/war-horse-by-michael-morpurgo))
Exercise 3. Friends in battle - people

The purpose of this exercise is to get the students thinking and talking about friendship, comradery and loyalty. The questions can be dealt with as a group or in smaller groups or even pairs.

Intro: After the race Joey and Topthorn become friends. They become Battle buddies. A battle buddy is a principal used in the US army. Two soldiers are linked to each other and told to look out for each other. In an after action. (originally this concept was introduced to reduce suicides)

Show the clip ‘Medal of honor recipient battle buddy speaks’

In this clip an ex-soldier speaks about his battle buddy, his close friend, that is receiving a medal of honour.

Questions to ask the students:
- How important do you think it is to have a friend in battle?
- What can a friend in battle do for you?
- What can you do for a friend in battle?
- Can you think of everyday battles where you could use a friend?

Note: If you would like to put more emphasis on writing then the booklet can be used to let the students write down their thoughts about friendship before actually discussing them.

Exercise 4. Silent reading

Give the students time to continue reading the book for at least 10 minutes.

Homework

Read chapters 7 to 12 and answer the question: ‘Can an animal be a real friend to someone?’
Lesson 3
The students have read chapters 7 to 12 before the start of this class.
This Lesson aims to:
- establish the next piece of Joey’s timeline
- check comprehension and progress
- discuss the significance of relationships between people and animal

Exercise 1. Check
Ask the students how they are experiencing the book.
- Did they come across any problems?
- What struck you the most?

Exercise 2. Timeline
Continue the timeline as described in lesson 2

Exercise 3. Friends in battle – animals
In preparation of this class student were asked to answer the question: ‘Can an animal be a real friend to someone?’ The link to the book is while Joey and Topthorn pull the ambulance cart together they bring comfort to the wounded soldiers.

Ask the question ‘What do you think about animals bringing comfort to people?’ Look at the pictures in the booklet and ask what they wrote down as homework and personal experiences.

Exercise 4. Silent reading
Give the students time to continue reading the book for at least 10 minutes.

Homework
Read chapters 13 to 18 and try to answer the question: ‘Are the German and British soldiers really enemies?’
Lesson 4
The students have read chapters 13 to 18 before the start of this class.
This Lesson aims to:
- establish the next piece of Joey’s timeline
- check comprehension and progress
- talk about how it might feel to be a soldier at war in WW1

Exercise 1. Check
During the silent reading in class you will have been able to check with students how they are progressing with the book. Before starting the ‘DO’ exercises asked students how they are experiencing the book so far.
- Have they managed to read the set chapters?
- Did they come across any problems?
- Are they liking or disliking the story so far?

Exercise 2. Timeline
Continue the timeline as described in lesson 2

Exercise 3. No Man’s Land
In preparation of this class student were asked to answer the question: ‘Are the German and British soldiers really enemies?’

Show the part of the film where Joey is rescued from ‘no man’s land’. (about 10 minutes of film)

Ask the students if they think something like this, where enemies come together as people, could/would or has happened in real life.

Ask the students if they think the soldiers in WW1, and WW2 for that matter, knew who and why they were fighting. And how do they think this is nowadays?

Exercise 4. Silent reading
Give the students time to continue reading the book for at least 10 minutes.

Homework
Read chapters 19 to 21 and try to answer the question: ‘Is Joey a hero?’
Post-reading
Lessons 5 - 6
The post-reading activities are designed to challenge the students to talk and write about their personal views on the story.

Lesson 5
The students have read chapters 18 to 21 before the start of this class.
This Lesson aims to:
- finish the timeline together
- compare book and film and talk about it
- stimulate students to use their imagination and creativity in writing or drawing

Exercise 1. The End
Finish timeline and ask the question: ‘Why has the author chosen to tell the story through the eyes of a horse?’ Show the first 2.30 minutes of the interview Micheal Morpurgo gave to CBBC Book.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ngq3qIXOq2A#t=42
After showing ask the question ‘What do you think of this reason?’ and ‘Is Joey a hero in this story?’

Exercise 2. Book vs film
Show the last ...minutes of the film,
The starting point is the scene where Joey is rescued form No-man’s Land.
Then discuss:
- What is different?
- Why do you think they changed the story for the movie?
- Which version do you like best?

Exercise 3. Medal of Honour
Choose one of three options. All options can be done alone or in pairs if they wish to do so.
Students will start this exercise in class and finish it as homework (and/or give them some extra time during the next lesson) and be prepared to show and tell in the next lesson.

If Joey were to receive a medal...
A. what song would be played?
   Choose a song and rewrite the lyrics so they tell (a part of) joey's story. Give the listeners a reason why Joey deserves a medal. Use the book for inspiration and your imagination.
B. what would his medal look like?
   Create a medal that shows at least two reasons why Joey deserves a medal. Write a short note to explain your design choices.
C. what would his acceptance speech be like?
   Write a speech as if you were Joey. One the he could present when he receives his medal. (set a minimal amount of words)
Lesson 6
This Lesson aims to:
- share speeches, songs and medals
- end the project on a positive note
- ask students for their input for improvement and new projects.

Exercise 0. Medal of Honour (OPTIONAL)
Give the students about 10 minutes to finish their assignment of the previous lesson and have them prepare for show and tell.

Exercise 1. Show and tell
Students preform or show what they have created.

Exercise 2. Evaluation
Let the students look at the mindmap about the book in lesson 1. Did their expectations come true? Evaluate with the students how they have experienced this lesson series and ask if they have any ideas for a book, of the theme for a book, to read together next time.

The booklet provides an evaluation form with the following questions:
- How did they experience the book?
- How did they experience the silent reading in class?
- What did you like best about this course?
- What would you change about the course?
- What sort of book would you like to read next?
HELP WHILE READING
To help you while reading the book and remembering the main events write down what you have read. There are 3 different options. Choose the one that works for you. You may use a different option per chapter if you want to explore which option works best for you.

OPTION 1 – Writing short summaries

Chapter 1
The main event of this chapter is:

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Chapter 2
The main event of this chapter is:

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Chapter 3
The main event of this chapter is:

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Chapter 4
The main event of this chapter is:

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Chapter 5
The main event of this chapter is:

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Chapter 6
The main event of this chapter is:

Chapter 7
The main event of this chapter is:

Chapter 8
The main event of this chapter is:

Chapter 9
The main event of this chapter is:

Chapter 10
The main event of this chapter is:
Chapter 11
The main event of this chapter is:

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Chapter 12
The main event of this chapter is:

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Chapter 13
The main event of this chapter is:

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Chapter 14
The main event of this chapter is:

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Chapter 15
The main event of this chapter is:

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Chapter 16
The main event of this chapter is:

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Chapter 17
The main event of this chapter is:

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Chapter 18
The main event of this chapter is:

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Chapter 19
The main event of this chapter is:

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Chapter 20
The main event of this chapter is:

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Chapter 21
The main event of this chapter is:

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OPTION 2 – Mindmap
OPTION 3 - Timeline

Chapter 1

Chapter 2

Chapter 3

Chapter 4

Chapter 5

Chapter 6

Chapter 7
Summary of the book
Source: http://iceboxmovies.blogspot.nl/

Author's Note
The book begins with a notice by Michael Morpurgo describing a "dusty painting of a horse" he once saw in an English village schoolhouse. Across the bottom of the bronze frame at the bottom of the painting, according to Morpurgo, reads the inscription, "Joey. Painted by Captain James Nicholls, Autumn 1914."

Chapter 1
War Horse opens with a bit of narration by Joey the horse, at a time when he was barely six months old: "My earliest memories are a confusion of hilly fields and dark, damp stables, and rats that scampered along the beams above my head. But I remember well enough the day of the horse sale. The terror of it stayed with me all my life."
Joey remembers being separated from his mother at an auction ("I screamed for my mother and heard her reply echoing in the far distance") to a mean, alcoholic old "owner" who lumps him in with an older horse named Zoey. The owner’s 13-year old son, Albert Narracott, takes a liking to Joey despite his mother’s insistence that he leave him alone.

I knew then that I had found a friend for life, that there was an instinctive and immediate bond of trust and affection between us.

Chapter 2
Albert raises Joey over a period of winters and summers. "His whistle," claims Joey, "imitated the stuttering call of an owl -- it was a call I never refused and I would never forget." Albert’s father is sometimes kind, but is often nasty, especially when drunk. Because of this, Albert begins putting Joey in the stables with Zoey to ensure that he is kept safe during his father’s drunken rages.

One night, Albert's father makes a bet with some other farmers that he can have Joey "pulling a plough before the end of the week." Joey resists, kicking Albert’s father and accidentally injuring him. He considers killing Joey for this, but Albert, now 15 and taller than his father, protests. His father than warns him that he'll sell Joey if he can't get him to pull a plough. Albert insists that he can train Joey to pull a plough as expected.

Eventually, Joey pulls through, and Albert’s father wins his bet. Albert’s mother tells him that a war is coming. "If it comes to that, you’d make a good war horse yourself, wouldn’t you, if you ride as well as you pull, and I know you will. We’d make quite a pair. God help the Germans if they ever have to fight the two of us."

And then war is declared. Albert assumes that it will "be over in a few months".

Chapter 3
By now, there is "a growing tension on the farm", and Albert is getting in more and more arguments with his mother and father. The mother insists that his father only drinks so much because he worries about the farm mortgage, and because he's getting older. "Albert and his father scarcely spoke to each other on those days," narrates Joey, "and Albert's mother was used more and more by both as a go-between, as a negotiator."

Then, on a Wednesday morning, Albert is asked to return a saddleback boar to the valley. He agrees only if he's allowed to take Joey out in the evening to train him for hunting season, which his
father responds to with silence. After Albert leaves, his father uses it as an opportunity to go behind Albert’s back.

"You’ll be all right, old son,” he said softly. "You’ll be all right. They’ll look after you -- they promised they would. And I need the money, Joey; I need the money bad."

Chapter 4

Albert’s father leads Joey into the village, baiting him by taking Zoey along, too. Albert’s father then sells Joey to Captain Nicholls of the British army for 40 pounds.

Joey narrates, "I had just about give up all hope, when I saw Albert running toward me through the crowd, his face red with exertion. The band had stopped playing, and the entire village looked on as he came up to me and put his arms around my neck." Realizing he cannot stop his father from selling Joey, Albert begs Captain Nicholls to let him ride Joey in the war, but the captain refuses. Joey is too young for the war -- to enlist, you have to be seventeen.

Captain Nicholls apologizes for not being able to help, reminding Albert that his father needs the money in order to run the family farm. But he also urges Albert to come and join the cavalry when he’s older, saying he can use his name as a reference.

"Your horse belongs to the army now, and you’re too young to join up. Don’t you worry -- we’ll take good care of him. I’ll take personal care of him, and that’s a promise."

Chapter 5

Joey is trained by the army to be a cavalry mount, and doesn’t like it one bit. "Gone was the gentle snaffle bit that I was so used to," he complains, "and in its place was an uncomfortable, cumbersome barbed bit that pinched the corners of my mouth and infuriated me beyond belief."

He specially dislikes his rider, Corporal Samuel Perkins, sort of a macho show-off who is feared by the other soldiers; although he doesn’t beat Joey or lose his temper with him, he is not above whipping him to keep him going. Joey claims that his only "consolation" during this period is Captain Nicholls, who has held to his promise to take good care of him, and has even started sketching Joey as a hobby.

He tells Joey that he’s preparing a portrait of him: "I can’t take it with me to France -- there would be no point, right? So I’m going to send it off to your friend Albert, just so that he’ll know that I meant what I said when I promised I would look after you." At one point, the captain confesses to Joey that he’s pessimistic about the outcome of the war, and that he and a person named Jamie are the only ones who think the Germans might actually win.

Corporal Perkins gets into a debate with the captain over the merits of Joey complaining that "he has to learn and obey instantly and instinctively. You don’t want a prima donna under you when the bullets start flying." The captain encourages the corporal to treat Joey better, reminding him that "a horse may carry you through, Corporal, but he can’t do your fighting for you." The captain also tells him to feed Joey more. From then on, the corporal is less harsh towards Joey. The first battle takes place on Salisbury Plain.

I remember mostly the heat and the flies that day because there were hours of standing about in the sun waiting for things to happen. Then, with the evening sun spreading and dying along the flat horizon, the entire regiment lined up in echelon for the charge, and the climax of our last manoeuvres.

During the battle, Captain Nicholls rides Joey alongside his friend Captain Jamie Stewart on a black stallion. They easily overtake the "enemy" position ("enemy" is put in quotes by Joey himself,
perhaps ironically), and Nicholls proudly tells Stewart that the conflict could not have been won without Joey's great agility. Stewart counters with insistence that his black stallion, Topthorn, "is the finest mount in this regiment or any other." If Joey is the faster horse, he says, then Topthorn has more stamina.

Chapter 6
Joey and Topthorn have boarded the ship to France. By the time they arrive, "the wounded", remarks Joey, "were everywhere -- on stretchers, on crutches, in open ambulances, and etched on every man was the look of wretched misery and pain." Topthorn remains the greatest solace for Joey during this time, even going so far as to wake him up in the aftermaths of battles.

During the charge of a following battle, Captain Nicholls is killed, and Joey runs and runs until he reaches Captain Stewart and Topthorn on the other side. Horses lie dead everywhere.

"He'd have been proud of you, Joey," said Captain Stewart as he led me back to the horse lines with Topthorn. He'd have been proud of you, the way you kept going out there. He died leading that charge and you finished it for him. He'd have been proud of you."

Chapter 7
Joey is introduced to his new rider, Trooper Warren, "not a good horseman" according to Joey. Eventually, however, Warren starts talking to Joey, revealing that his previous horse had been shot out underneath him and that he had been scared to ever ride a horse again. Though Warren looks after Joey "with great devotion", Joey secretly wishes somebody else would ride him in the battles.

In the winter, Joey and Topthorn keep each other company. Warren receives letters from his mother but not from his girlfriend Sally, who can't write -- "well not very well, anyway." They are able to make it to the spring, ready to face the war again.

"Do me proud, Joey," said Trooper Warren, drawing his sword. "Do me proud."

Chapter 8
In the ensuing battle, Trooper Warren is horrified when he realizes that the field is surrounded by barbed wire. Several horses run into the wire, and one trooper, just before dying on the wire himself, is forced to shoot his horse when the wire impales it. Joey follows Topthorn as he jumps over the lowest portion of the wire, and they all find themselves surrounded by the enemy.

"Throw down your sword, Trooper," says Captain Stewart to Warren. "There's been enough useless slaughter today. No sense in adding to it." They look back and watch as the Germans begin shooting the horses still impaled on the wire, one by one. Warren and Stewart are forced to give Joey and Topthorn to the enemy since, after all, they are POWs just like them.

There was no time for long farewells -- just a brief last stroke of the muzzle for each of us and they were gone. As they walked away, Captain Stewart had his arm around Trooper Warren's shoulder.

Chapter 9
"Two nervous soldiers" lead Joey and Topthorn away before they are tied up to a hospital tent, as several wounded soldiers "gawk" at them. A limping German officer in a grey coat with a bandage around his head orders the soldiers to stop staring at the horses, commanding them to find the horses some blankets. The man's name is Herr Hauptmann.
Hauptmann is outraged when a doctor in a bloody white coat reveals that the horses will be put to work pulling carts. The doctor understands, but reminds Hauptmann that the horses need to be put to work in order to help all the Germans and English who are already dying on the battlefield. Hauptmann is still annoyed: "When noble creatures such as these are forced to become beasts of burden, the world has gone mad. But I can see that you are right." The importance of this scene is that it shows the nobility between the Germans who fought in the war.

What the doctor does ask, however, is that Hauptmann volunteer to manage the two horses while they pull the carts. Hauptmann accepts. Noticing that Joey and Topthorn pull the carts with ease (they've obviously done this sort of thing before), Hauptmann remarks, "I always knew the British were crazy."

Impressed, the doctor allows Joey and Topthorn to have "the luxury of a stable." That night, while they are trying to sleep, Joey is frightened by the sight of somebody coming into the barn -- it reminds him of Albert's father -- but it is actually just "a bent old man in rough clothes and clogs, and beside him stood a young girl, her head and shoulders wrapped in a shawl."

"There you are, Grandpapa," she said. "I told you they put them in here. Have you ever seen anything so beautiful? Oh, can they be mine, Grandpapa? Please, can they be mine?"

Chapter 10
The German soldiers take a liking to Joey and Topthorn because they are helpful in pulling carts of those who are wounded. One soldier hangs an Iron Cross around Joey's neck in admiration. The Iron Cross is hung on a nail outside their stable door.

In the evenings of the summer, Joey and Topthorn are visited by the little girl and her grandfather. The little girl's name is Emilie. She dreams of riding them through the fields when the war is over. Come winter, however, she stops coming to see them, and the grandfather eventually reveals to them why. Emilie is only 13, but her parents were killed only a week after the war began and her brother was killed at 17. She prays for them all despite the fact that she is dying of pneumonia herself. Primarily, however, she prays for two things: that Joey and Topthorn survive the war and lived into old age, and that Emilie can grow up with them. "If you can understand anything of what I said," the grandfather says, "then pray for her to whatever horse god you pray to -- pray for her like she does for you."

On Christmas night, the grandfather feeds them extra mash, telling them that Emilie has been trying to get out of bed to see them.

"The only way that German doctor could get her to stay in bed was to promise to go on with them as long as the cold weather lasted. So go inside, my beauties, and eat your fill. We've all had a Christmas present today, haven't we? All's well, I tell you. All's well."

Chapter 11
Joey and Topthorn now have the ability to come to Emilie whenever she calls them. She is still sick, however, and sometimes has to heave herself onto Joey's back in order to ride him. Climbing Topthorn is harder, and sometimes she has to use Joey as a "stepping stone" in order to mount him.

One evening, Joey and Topthorn are greeted with good news from Emilie after she and her grandfather speak with a doctor. "They don't need you anymore to pull their cats," she tells them. The doctor, apparently, has agreed to let the horses stay with Emilie. She vows never to let the army take them away from her.
The grandfather sets Joey and Topthorn to work cutting and turning hay on the farm, insisting to Emilie that they "like to work. They need to work." But then an artillery troop enters the farm one evening, demanding that they need to take Joey and Topthorn because they're short 2 horses. Emilie cries that they can't, but the grandfather says there is nothing he can do and tells her to shape up and say goodbye to Joey and Topthorn.

_She walked directly toward the officer and handed over the reins. "I want them back," she said, her voice strong now, almost fierce. "I'm just lending them to you. They are my horses. They belong here. Feed them well and look after them and make sure you bring them back." And she walked past her grandfather and into the house without even turning around._

**Chapter 12**

Back in the war, Joey and Topthorn are saddled alongside other horses, including the hulkish Heinie and the nasty Coco ("When Coco was eating," Joey recalls, "no one -- neither horse nor man -- ventured within biting or kicking distance"). Also with them are two ponies with blond manes and tails whom the soldiers dub "the two golden Haflingers." They have to ride in the winter, when the mud has begun to freeze. It is a cruel existence, full of hard work and lacking good food for the horses, and the only nice soldier in the bunch is "the kindly old gunner I had noticed that first day when we were taken from the farm," who likes to feed Joey and Topthorn black bread and talks to them more than he talks to the soldiers.

The horses begin deteriorating. Heinie is shot by the vets one morning and left in the mud ("a collapsed wreck of a horse"), and when Coco is hit in the neck with shrapnel, he is euthanized as well. "No matter how much I disliked him -- and he was a vicious beast -- it was a piteous and terrible sight to see a fellow creature, with whom I had pulled for so long, discarded and forgotten in a ditch."

Joey notices that Topthorn's health is failing when he starts having trouble pulling the gun, and when he starts lying in the mud having coughing fits. When he is inspected by a vet, the vet protests to the spectacled officer that Topthorn is too fine to pull a gun and that he needs rest.

_"He will have to do what the others do, Herr Doctor," said the major in a steely voice. "No more and no less. I cannot make exceptions." If you pass him fit, he's fit and that's that." He's fit to go on," said the vet reluctantly. "But I am warning you, Herr Major. You must take care._"

**Chapter 13**

Although they survive into the spring, Joey notices that Topthorn's health is still deteriorating. Luckily, they are both so fat that they are never plunged into any battles due to being fattened up.

The old gunman, "Crazy Old Fredrich," tells Joey and Topthorn that he thinks himself "the only sane man in the regiment." He scoffs at the fact that so many men in the army don't know what they're going to war for. "You two are the only rational creatures I've met in this stupid war," he rails, "and like me, the only reason you're here is because you were brought here." Joey believes that Fredrich had more affection for Topthorn than for him.

_"If I have to die out here away from my home," Fredrich confided to Topthorn one day, "I would rather die alongside you. But I'll do my best to see to it that we all get through and get back home -- that much I promise you._"
Chapter 14
Tophorn is admired by two young soldiers, Rudi and Karl. But then tragedy strikes.

As Frederich takes the horses down to the river to drink, Tophorn drinks a lot of water, then begins stumbling as they make their way back up the hill. Suddenly, Tophorn stumbles to his knees, falls, breathes heavily and looks up at Joey. Joey narrates, "It was an appeal for help — I could see it in his eyes." Then Tophorn slumps over and dies, his tongue sticking out.

Fredrich is saddened and angry at Tophorn's death, but Rudi tells him there's nothing he can do. When the vet comes to inspect, he is just as upset. All the soldiers gather around, mournful.

Just then, there is an explosion. Several men bathing in the river are hit by shells. Fredrich tries to pull Joey away, yelling at him, but Joey is too transfixed by Tophorn's death, and upon trying to escape by himself, Fredrich is struck by a shell and dies beside Tophorn.

The last I saw of my troop were the bobbing blond manes of the two little Haflingers as they struggled to pull the gun up through the trees with the gunners hauling frantically on their reins and straining to push the gun from behind.

Chapter 15
The next day, tanks roar down the hill, and Joey runs away from them, crashing into the river. He runs through "deserted, ruined villages" before reaching a meadow. When he awakes, the night sky is alive with gunfire.

Falling into a crater, Joey is snagged by barbed wire that wounds his leg before he manages to break free. "This was to be the longest night of my life," he remembers, "a nightmare of agony, terror, and loneliness."

Eventually, Joey hears voices and stumbles into the mist towards them. He can hear soldiers bickering over whether they can see a cow or a horse in the distance.

Once the mist clears, Joey realizes that he's in a battlefield surrounded by barbed wire, much like the one he was in earlier.

I remembered I had been in such a place once before, that day when I had charged across it with Tophorn beside me. This was what the soldiers called "no man's land."

Chapter 16
As Joey walks around the battlefield, he is cheered on and beckoned by both sides. Eventually, a German in a grey uniform and a Welshman in a khaki uniform both advance towards Joey before regarding each other with silence for some moments. They decide to determine Joey's fate over a coin toss, and the Welshman wins. Proud that they have been able to resolve the matter peacefully, the Welshman remarks that if more people were like this, the war would be over faster. To which the German replies, "If we did it that way, then it would be our turn to win. And maybe your Lloyd George would not like that."

Chapter 17
Due to his wounded leg, Joey enters the Welsh army gravely ill. When he is greeted by a group of excited soldiers in a stable, a large, moustached sergeant tells them to mind their own business and get back to work. Then, when the sergeant orders one soldier to get Joey cleaned up for "Major Martin", to the point where "you could use him as a shaving mirror," the unseen soldier replies, "Yes, Sergeant" -- and Joey recognizes the voice.
It is Albert. Although Albert begins talking to Joey about the horse he lost in the war, he does not seem to recognize Joey. Then Albert’s friend David enters the scene and helps clean Joey up; he is all too familiar with Albert’s horse stories. But when David takes a close look at Joey for himself, he realizes it may be him. Though Albert thinks it’s a joke, David declares, "Berty... I'm not teasing, honest I'm not. Not now."

Once David describes Joey’s features, Albert circles around Joey and looks into his eyes. "Joey?" To make sure it is really him, Albert walks to the gateway and whistles in his familiar owl whistle, somehow freeing the pain in Joey’s leg for an instant. And Joey trots toward him and buries his nose in his shoulder.

"It's him, David," Albert said, putting his arms around my neck and hanging on to my mane. "It's my Joey. I've found him. He's come back to me just like I said he would."

"See?" said David wryly. "What did I tell you? See? Not often wrong, am I?"

"Not often," Albert said. "Not often, and not this time."

Chapter 18
Despite the constant monitoring of Albert, Major Martin and Sergeant "Thunder", Joey does not get better. He has bad forelegs and loses his appetite. Even the sight of Albert makes him flinch. Major Martin suspects that shrapnel wounds have affected Joey terminally and that nothing can be done for him. For it seems as though Joey has been stricken with tetanus, or "lockjaw".

Though the major and sergeant suggest Joey be euthanized, David reminds them that a horse is just important as any soldier in the cavalry. The sergeant orders David not to talk back to them, though the major knows he means well. But Albert and David vow to help Joey in any way they can, and their wish is granted.

To save Joey, they have to put his legs in a sling, keep in a whisper around him, make him a bed of straw, keep him in the dark and feed him only oatmeal and milk. As the days pass, Joe's pain spreads, but he is kept alive by Albert's presence.

Finally, on a winter night, Joey's pain in his throat loosens, and he is able to neigh again, waking up Albert. "Was that you, Joey?" The entire regiment is amazed, and soon Joey is walking again. The pain in his back is gone.

"You've done it, Joey. You've done it. Everyone says the war's going to be over soon -- I know we've been saying that for a long time, but I feel it in my bones this time. It'll be finished before long, and then we'll both be going home, back to the farm. I can't wait to see the look on Father's face when I bring you back up the road. I just can't wait."

Chapter 19
Joey may be healed, but the war is not over yet. Albert and Major Martin go back into the battlefields with him, and he is used as the lead horse in the tandem team. David predicts that the war could be over by Christmas as long as the "Yankees" do a little more to help.

Albert likes to talk to Joey about his sweetheart up in the village, Maisie Brown, who "bakes bread like you've never tasted before," and who has "eyes as blue as cornflowers, hair as gold as ripe corn, and her skin smells like honeysuckle -- except when she first comes out of the dairy. I keep away from her then." He says that although Maisie Brown cried for Albert when he volunteered to go to war, she was the only one who believed he was right to want to go find Joey.

They receive news one evening that David has been killed by a stray shell. According to Albert, David was once a manager of a fruit cart in London, outside Covent Garden. "There's just you
and me left now, Joey," mourns Albert, "and I tell you we're going to get home, both of us.* I'm going to ring that tenor bell again in the church, I'm going to eat my Maisie's bread and pastries, and I'm going to ride you down by the river again. David always said he was somehow sure that I'd get home, and he was right. I'm going to make him right."

There is not much celebration when the war finally does end. People seem more relieved than overjoyed that it is over. Albert still appears to be unhappy over David's death. Major Martin announces that everyone might be home by Christmas, but Sergeant Thunder asks whether the horses will go home on the same boat as them. To which the major replies, "No, Sergeant... I'm afraid the horses won't be coming with us at all." Instead, the horses will stay in France. Because most of the horses are sick and can't really be looked after, they are to be sold at a courtyard auction, which can only mean one thing: they will be sold off to butchers and chopped up into meat.

"Albert's voice rang out across the yard. "What, all of them, sir? Every one of them? Even Joey that we brought back from the dead? Even him?" Major Martin said nothing, but turned on his heel and walked away.

Chapter 20

Sergeant Thunder rallies up a conspiracy amongst his fellow soldiers to raise money to save Joey for Albert. Coins are collected in a small tin box. The sergeant reveals that this is actually the major's idea, but cautions the soldiers not to speak of it to anyone. Allegedly, the major has even "given us every penny of his pay that he had saved up -- every penny."

Albert realizes he can no longer promise Joey that he'll save him from certain death. He thinks only God can help them now. "I remember old Miss Wirtle telling me once in Sunday school back home: 'God helps those that helps themselves,'" Albert remembers. "Mean old devil she was, but she knew her scriptures well enough." The next day, Albert leads Joey into the courtyard auction. He is the last horse to be brought out.

When the price on Joey's head raises, the only two people left bidding are Sergeant Thunder and a thin, wiry little man with weasel eyes who wore on his face a smile so full of greed and evil that I could hardly bear to look at him. The bid eventually rises to twenty-seven pounds, at which the sergeant realizes he cannot pay for Joey. The greedy man -- Monsieur Cirac, a butcher from Cambrai -- has been buying horses all morning, and it seems as though he will have Joey, too.

Then, "a white-haired old man leaning heavily on his stick", whom Joey recognizes after some hesitation, bids twenty-eight pounds. Declaring that Joey is "my Emilie's horse", the man declares he will bid 100 pounds if he needs to.

"No one said a word. The butcher from Cambrai shook his head and turned away. Even the auctioneer had been stunned into silence, and there was some delay before he brought his hammer down on the table and I was sold.

Chapter 21

Although the major and the sergeant are speaking privately to the old Frenchman, Albert is not convinced that Joey is falling into a safe pair of hands. His friends try to console him, insisting that it could have been worse, but he is uncertain. According to the old man, Joey would stay peacefully on his farm and would never have to work again.

When they all come over, Albert thanks the major for at least trying to secure Joey's sale. The major and the sergeant act like they have no idea what he's talking about, the sergeant condescendingly remarking Albert might only be saying such a thing because farm boys are "raised
on cider instead of milk." Puzzled by their levity, Albert asks what the old man means by saying Joey is "Emilie's horse." To which the major turns to the old man: "Maybe you would like to tell him yourself, monsieur?"

Emilie's grandfather looks stern at first, but then smiles, telling Albert he realizes that they both have a lot in common, despite having different nationalities. He recognizes that Albert must have been the one who trained Joey to be a farm horse. Then, he tells Albert the story of how Joey came to live with him and Emilie on their farm, revealing that after Joey and Topthorn were taken away, Emilie "lost the will to live" and "faded away and died last year" at the age of 15. But she had made her grandfather promise that he would find the horses somehow and take care of them. Although he never found Topthorn, he has now found Joey.

Referring to Albert as a "Tommy" (slang for a Brit?), Emilie's grandfather then says that he believes it was noble of the major and the sergeant to try to buy Joey for Albert, and that he recognizes how much Albert loves Joey. He doesn't believe that, being an old man, he could take care of him very well, and he believes Emilie would have liked that and "would want me to do what I will do now."

He proposes to sell Joey to Albert. Sell? Albert has very little money. But Emilie's grandfather chuckles, "You do not understand, my friend... you do not understand at all. I will sell you this horse for one English penny, and for a solemn promise -- that you will always love this horse as much as my Emilie did and that you will care for him until the end of his days. And more than this, I want you to tell everyone about my Emilie... that way she will live forever, and that is what I want. Is it a bargain between us?"

At first, Albert is silent. He holds out his hand, but the old man instead puts his hands on Albert's shoulders and kisses him on both cheeks. "Thank you," he says. He then says to Joey, "Goodbye, my friend," touches him lightly on the nose with his lips, and adds, "From Emilie." Before leaving, he cracks a joke about how English people are "meaner" than the French -- because the Sergeant has not yet paid him his English penny. The sergeant produces a penny and gives it to Albert, and when Albert runs over and hands it to Emilie's grandfather, he replies, "I shall treasure it... I shall treasure it always."