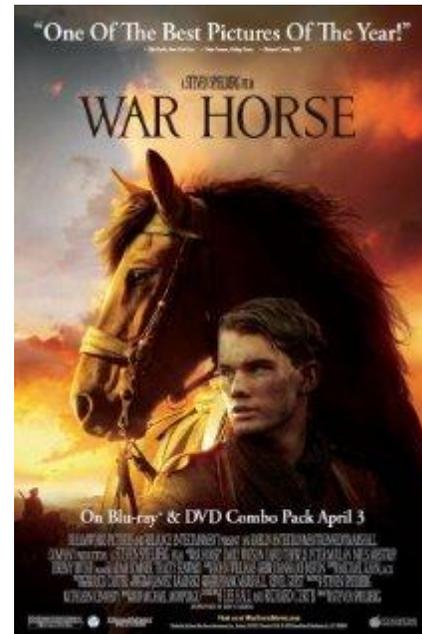


Constructed Response for *War Horse*

Dr. Jay Seller

Directions for your Constructive Response to *War Horse*

- After you have read each of the constructed response questions below, **select three to answer**. The constructed response verbiage is listed below to assist you in this process.
- Responses are graded on quality not quantity, looking for thinking in your writing, and reflection on the article above.
- Use the film *War Horse* to explore the characters and storyline in order to provide support for your answers and to properly address the questions.
- You may compose your response in a *Microsoft Word document*.
- Make sure to include your name and hour attached to your work.
- Email your assignment as an attachment or within the email your instructor. Subject line: *War Horse* Assignment



Option One

Had you read the book or seen the stage play before seeing the film? If so, how do you think that this adaptation compares? What is the best way to experience the *War Horse* story?

Option Two

Steven Spielberg is known for telling unashamedly emotional stories. What techniques does he use in this film to engage the audience's feelings? What helps to separate something that is 'sentimental' from something that is genuinely moving?

Option Four

What makes Joey so important to Albert at the beginning of the film? What qualities do animals have that can lead us to become attached to them? What is the impact of seeing the war portrayed through the experiences of an animal, as opposed to a human?

Option Five

'He refuses to be proud of killing. Think how brave that is.' – Rose Narracott (Emily Watson)
How has Albert's father been shaped by his past experiences of war? What stance, if any, does the film seem to take on the morality of war?

Option Six

Why did the storytellers choose to show us Joey being cared for by people of various nationalities (English soldiers, German soldiers, occupied French)? What impact does it have when we begin to identify with people on all sides of a conflict?

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Option Seven

How realistic a portrayal do you think the film gives of the war and of the people fighting in it? How important is historical authenticity when recreating tragic events?

Option Eight

‘Me and the men, Sir, we have high hopes for him.’ – Colin (Toby Kebbell)

What does Joey come to represent to the different people who encounter him? Why is his survival so significant to Colin, the soldier who frees him from the barbed wire? Why does Albert call him ‘a miracle horse’?

Option Nine

The chaos and waste of the First World War may appear irredeemably bleak. Is there anything that can offer real hope in these kinds of circumstances? How is our culture impacted by being so removed from suffering on this scale?

Option Ten

‘What a strange beast you’ve become.’ – Colin

Where do war and conflict ultimately come from? Are they products of human nature, or do they go against human nature? What distinguishes ‘human nature’ from ‘animal nature’?

Question Source: Damaris.org

Key Verbs and Tasks used in Constructive Response

- Analyze - Examining carefully by looking at the different parts of the whole and figuring out how they are related to each other.
- Apply - Using what you have learned to demonstrate show, or relate something.
- Compare - Using examples to show how things are similar.
- Contrast - Using examples to show how things are different.
- Evaluate - Making a judgment backed up with support.
- Infer - Making an educated guess or hypothesizing... reading between the lines.
- Interpret - Explaining a possible meaning of a text
- Paraphrase - Putting the author’s ideas into your own words
- Predict - Using information available to make an educated guess about future events
- Summarize - Presenting the author’s main ideas in a shortened form
- Support - Using specific facts to “back up” your answer, utilize details and examples from the text.
- Synthesize - Combining several ideas and making something new