

Study of an Extract from Ellis Silas's Diary

A Wartime Experience

PART 1- BEFORE READING - Getting to know the author and making predictions.



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1. Find out who Ellis Silas was. Click on the following link :



<https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/stories/biographies/ellis-luciano-silas>

2. What is the role of a signaller?

3. What might Ellis Silas have written about in his diary? Make predictions.

PART 2- WHILE READING - Understanding the Story.

1. General understanding

- Read the text and identify the setting of the excerpt (time, people, place).
- In your own words, summarise what happens in the passage.

2. Analysis

a. Complete the table. Describe Ellis Silas's experience of war. Justify your answers by quoting from the text.

	 What it looks like	 What it sounds like	 What it feels like
Before the landing			
On the battlefield			

b. Compare and contrast. What differences and similarities do you notice?

c. What does this reveal about Silas's views on war and its impact on him?

d. The narrator presents the soldiers as heroes.

- Which ANZAC values are suggested in this passage? Justify your answers by quoting from the text.
- How is this heroic image of soldiers challenged in this passage?

e. Ellis Silas uses various literary devices. Identify them and explain their effects on the reader or the impressions conveyed.

Quotes	Literary device	Effects/ impressions

PART 3- AFTER READING - Reflect & interpret.

- a. What message does Ellis Silas convey about war? What do you learn about the soldiers' living conditions and emotions?
- b. Do you think reading soldiers' personal experience changes the way we understand war? Why or why not?

CREATE A SHORT VIDEO



- a. Record an expressive reading of this passage.
- b. Add sound effects and a background music to create a strong atmosphere.
- c. Download images of the Gallipoli campaign to illustrate the text.
- d. Edit the video in MP4 format.



Use copyright-free resources or resources belonging to the public domain (sounds, music and pictures)

At the end of your video, please mention the sources of any resources you have used, including Ellis Silas's diary extract.

TEACHER'S NOTES

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A Wartime Experience

Medium: extract from the diary of Ellis Silas

The text can be accessed here: <https://transcripts.sl.nsw.gov.au/page/silas-diary-1914-1916-ellis-silas-page-40>

Target audience: SIA year 8/ 9 (B2 level)

Time: Part 1: 15 minutes (can be assigned as homework), Part 2 and 3: 60 minutes, and 2 hours for the creation of the video

Theme: Freedom & Friendship- Australians at war

Topic: A Wartime Experience

Central question: How does the text show the reality of the soldiers' experience on the battlefield?

Skills developed:

- Reading comprehension
- Literary analysis
- Speaking skills

Links to the Bulletin Officiel n°2, January 14, 2021:

-"apprécier la manière dont l'esthétique, la structure narrative, les formes et les caractéristiques de la langue (les conventions), et l'utilisation de figures de style (métaphores, ton, langage figuré) influencent la réaction du récepteur;"

-"développer la capacité à identifier et comprendre les subtilités, les nuances et l'implicite d'un document "

-"pratiquer l'analyse littéraire, notamment la manière dont le sens est véhiculé, évaluer des a priori culturels d'un document et leurs implications, et identifier des thèmes moraux et éthiques ;"

-"développer la capacité à reconnaître les intentions de l'énonciateur ;"

-"prendre en compte l'importance du contexte historique, social et culturel pour la compréhension d'un texte et son analyse ;"

-"mettre en scène des extraits d'œuvres ou son interprétation d'une œuvre, que ce soit en représentation individuelle ou en groupe;"

-"choisir un langage persuasif, en variant son ton de voix, son niveau sonore et son rythme d'élocution pour présenter et discuter d'une idée ."