WAR HORSE

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Companion Guide

From Illinois AGRICULTURE in the Classroom
Introduction

*War Horse* is a powerful story of the truest friendships in the worst of wars.

In this companion guide you will find “Vocab Words & Farm Words”. These are words from each chapter that may be unfamiliar to students. Students could define each, use them within sentences, or work to use them within their writing. There are “Questions” to use as discussion starters or as reading checks. There are writing prompts called “Write Away” to encourage students to write more about a specific topic. “Art Wise” encourages students to use the art portion of Language Arts to research and integrate art into reading time. “Lesson Extenders” have also been added with links to other Agriculture in the Classroom activities. Having a special notebook or folder for each student to store all the materials in may be helpful for an easy reference.
Author’s note

Farm Words
Red Bay
White Cross
White Socks

Vocab Words
Emblazoned
Parish

Questions
1. What are your predictions about the book?  
2. What war do you think this is about?  
3. Discuss the painting mentioned in the author’s note. Why would there be such a painting and what could be its significance?

Art-Wise
Using the details given in the author’s note, draw a picture of “Joey” the way you think he looks in the painting.

Extension Activity
Check out the Horse Ag Mag at www.agintheclassroom.org
# Chapter 1

## Farm Words
- Stables
- Colt
- Draft Horse
- Hindquarter
- Thoroughbred
- Halter
- Nickered
- Calf
- Lunge
- Bolted

## Vocab Words
- Gangling
- Stamina
- Whisked
- Haggling
- Clambering
- Venture
- Dabbed
- Obdurate
- Bellowed

## Questions
1. In what perspective is the story told?
2. After reading Chapter 1, name and describe the main characters.
3. Why did Albert’s father buy a horse when the family needed a calf?
4. How does Joey feel about Albert?
5. Why did Joey say that he would not call her owner, “Master”?

## Write Away
Why did Albert name the horse, “Joey”? What would you have named him?

Why is it important to “rub down a horse”?

Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom
Chapter 2

Farm Words

Whinnied
Limp

Vocab Words

Gawkishness
Obedience
Shuttering
Loneliness
Protected
Encounter
Pretext
Precaution
Intricacies
Vengeance
Noblest
Infinite
Vicious
Dismissive
Continuously
Hesitated
Abundance
Terrified

Questions

1. Joey stated that Albert’s whistle imitated the stuttering call of a what? Did he come when Albert whistled?

2. What did Joey do to Albert’s father that could have gotten him shot or sold?

3. What does Albert have to teach Joey to do in a week? If he doesn’t learn in a week, what will happen to Joey?

Art-Wise

They declared war yesterday at 11:00! Draw a picture of what you think Albert and his family looked like at this very moment? Use the details from the book to illustrate your picture.

Write-Away

Albert is too young to go to war, but he says that he wants to go. How would you feel if you were Albert? Would you want to go to war? Explain why or why not.
Chapter 3

Farm Words

piggery

Vocab Words

Gradually  Scarcely
Normality  Negotiator
Tension  Arbitrating
Foreboding  Brewing
Mortgage  Inevitable
Criticize  Intervened
Vehemently  Tinder
Acknowledged  Suspicious
Complaining  Inquisitiveness
Regretted

Questions

1. Describe Albert’s relationship with his mother and father.

2. Albert helps out on the farm. What are some of his responsibilities?

3. Where do you think Albert’s father is taking Joey and Zoey?

Art-Wise

Draw a picture of Albert riding Joey (while they went to check the sheep) with Zoey following close behind.

Write Away

How do you think Albert is going to react when he comes home to find his horse/best friend missing? How would you react?
Chapter 4

Farm Words
Jodhpurs
Fetlocks

Vocab Words
Steady        Shrunken
Khaki         Abandoned
Union Jack    Obedient
Elegant       Placid
Exaggerating  Inconsolable
Recruiting    Exertion
Reassure      Cavalry

Questions
1. Why did Albert’s father sell Joey to the Army?
2. What did Albert offer Captain Nicholls once he realized his father had sold Joey?
3. What did Captain Nicholls promise Albert?

Write-Away
What did the Vet check to decide if Joey was “a perfect specimen”? Was he perfect? Why or why not?

Lesson Extender
Corn is an ingredient in a horses feed. Check out our Corn Ag Mag to learn more about corn!

www.agintheclassroom.org
### Chapter 5

#### Farm Words
- Snaffle bit
- Weymouth bit
- Grooming
- Barbed
- Furrow

#### Vocab Words
- Transformation
- Resented
- Discipline
- Maneuvers
- Reveled
- Devotion
- Tedious
- Cobbles
- Disciplines
- Persuasion
- Determination
- Cumbersome
- Majestic
- Infuriated
- Trepidation
- Consolation
- Artillery
- Squadron
- Dignity
- Instinctively
- Resigned

### Questions
1. Captain Nicholls explained to Joey how he and Jamie feel about the war, explain their feelings.

2. Tell about Captain Jamie Stewart and Corporal Samuel Perkins. Who are they? Why are they important to Joey and Captain Nicholls?

### Art-Wise
Captain Nicholls is sketching a picture of Joey for Albert, sketch a picture of Joey with Captain Nicholls.
Chapter 6

**Farm Words**
Snaffle bit

**Vocab Words**
Cumbersome
Squadron

**Questions**

1. While on the ship, who was it that gave Joey comfort? How did he comfort Joey?

2. When the ship docked, what did they all see that made them all very silent and somber?

**Art-Wise**

When the enemy was sighted, the command "Draw Swords!" was shouted! Draw a picture of what you think this looked like.

**Write-Away**

Write a short paragraph about this Chapter from Captain Stewarts view.
# Chapter 7

## Farm Words
- Saddle sores
- Fetlocks
- Veterinarian

## Vocab Words
- Reveille
- Incessant
- Unsympathetic
- Bandolier
- Finesse
- Frustration
- Meticulous
- Irritations
- Chaffing
- Idleness
- Deadlock
- Monotony
- Effectively
- Ominous
- Stamina

## Questions
1. Describe Trooper Warren. Is he a good horseman? Why or why not?
2. How is Trooper Warren while “out of the saddle”?
3. Who is Sally that is mentioned in Trooper Warrens letters from his mother?

## Write-Away
Write a short paragraph and predict what you think is going to happen in Chapter 8.
# Chapter 8

## Farm Words
- Gallop

## Vocab Words
- Remnants
- Carnage
- Foe
- Feverishly
- Sabers
- Extract
- Galvanized
- Ghastly
- Bedlam
- Reassure
- Inexorably
- Farewell

## Questions
1. Was your prediction for chapter 8 correct? Explain.
2. Joey and Topthorn have been separated from their soldiers, who do they belong to now?

## Write-Away
There were only two soldiers left and they are now prisoners of war. Who are these soldiers and what do you predict will happen to them?
Chapter 9

Vocab Words

Impatience    Herr
Immensely     Desperately
Wielding      Sustained
Undisguised   Indignation
Admiration    Formidable
Noble

Questions

1. Who is Hauptmann? How did he want the horses treated?
2. What were they going to use the horses for?

Write-Away

The officer insured Joey and Topthorn were well taken care of after their very long day of pushing carts and saving lives. Describe where they were put for the night.

Art-Wise

A young girl and an old man came into where Joey and Topthorn were resting. Draw a detailed picture of the two individuals and the horses.
Chapter 10

Vocab Words
Hazardous
Pitted
Plodded
Adulation
Prattle
Extricate

Questions
1. Why were Joey and Topthorn happy about how their summer was going?
2. Joey said, “But it is the evenings of that summer that stay so strong in my memory.” What is Joey describing?

Write-Away
Emilie is very sick so her Grandfather is taking care of the horses. Summarize what he tells the horses about Emilie and her life.

Art-Wise
A soldier reached up and hung a muddied ribbon with an iron cross dangling from it on Joey’s neck. This ribbon was given to both Joey and Topthorn. Draw a picture of this ribbon once it is hanging on a nail outside of their stable door.
## Chapter 11

### Farm Words
- Harnessed
- Yoked

### Vocab Words
- Emerged
- Besieged
- Exuberant
- Yoked
- Consultation

### Questions
1. Why did Emilie ride Joey more than she rode Topthorn?

2. The orderlies, nurses, and doctors no longer needed Joey and Topthorn so they gave them to Emilie and her Grandfather. What were the horses responsibilities on the Emilie and her grandfathers farm?

### Write-Away
Different soldiers came to the farm and demanded the horses to pull their guns. What do you think the difference is between these soldiers and the previous soldiers that cared for Joey and Topthorn?

Emilie is devastated! Do you think Emilie will get her horses back like she demanded to those soldiers? Why or Why not?
Chapter 12

Farm Words  Vocab Words
Nuzzling      Urged         Unperturbed      Fording
Compulsion   Incongruous  Relentlessly
Sporadically Diminutive  Intermittently
Motely       Arduous      Reservoir
Efficiency   Spectacled   Steely
Exhaustion  Excruciatingly  Dismissively
Recuperation Deteriorated  Exceptions
Vicious      Piteous
Aggression   Courageous

Questions
1. Joey didn’t think the work was any harder than pulling an ambulance cart, but what is different now that WAS making it much more difficult?

2. What was happening to the horses as they kept on in the mud?

Write-Away
What was Herr Doctor and Herr Major arguing about? What did they decide to do?
Chapter 13

Vocab Words

Enthusiasm  Obliging  Comparative
Optimism  Tedious  Admiration
Exhilaration  Regiment  Implicitly
Sporadic  Rational  Idleness
Empathy

Questions

1. Topthorn and Joey survived and actually got fat! How did they lose their excess weight?

Write-Away

Who is “Crazy Old Friedrich”? Write a short paragraph and tell his story.

Chapter 14

Farm Words  Vocab Words

Surefooted  Frantically
Wearily
Instinctively
Spontaneous
Intensified

Questions

1. Describe Rudi and his love for horses.

2. What happened to Topthorn and how did Joey react?

Write-Away When the shelling began, Joey stayed with Topthorn as his troop fled. Predict what will happen next to Joey.
Chapter 15

Vocab Words
Craters
Lumbering
Belched
Inexorably
Abandoned
Pulsated
Contemplate
Bombardment
Anticipation

Questions
1. What was it that finally tore Joey away from Topthorns side?

2. What happened to Joey’s leg while he was running?

3. When the sun came up and the mist cleared, Joey found himself in “no-man’s-land”. What do you think it means to be in “no-man’s-land”?

Write-Away
Joey was terrified, lost, and physically and mentally hurt. Have you ever been lost? How did you feel? What thoughts do you think are running through Joey’s head?
Chapter 16

Vocab Words
Occasional
Savor
Consternation
Warily
Disbelief
Auf Wiedersehen

Questions
1. What did the two soldiers hold up as they both entered “no-man’s-land”? Why?
2. Did the German or the Welshman win Joey?

Art-Wise
Draw a picture of the German and Welshman with Joey in “no-man’s-land”. Use details from the chapter.

Write-Away
Write a short summary about the conversation the two soldiers had about war.
Chapter 17

Vocab Words
Ungainly
Immaculate
Magnificent
Turrets
Anxious
Kinship
Irritation

Questions
1. Describe the Sergeant and his first impression of Joey.
2. Albert joined the Veterinary Corps just on the off chance that he may come across his Joey again. How did Albert and Joey react when they stood face to face once again?

Art-Wise
Sketch a picture of Joey and Albert when they stood face to face once again. Use details from the chapter while sketching.

Write-Away
Describe David and how Albert knows him so well.
Chapter 18

Farm Words

Nickered

Vocab Words

Euphoric

Consequence

Irrational

Incredulous

Hullabaloo

Questions

1. Albert talked to Joey about his father. What did he tell Joey?

2. Joey wasn’t getting better from his wound. He was getting worse and worse. Major Martin and Sergeant Thunder told Albert and David what was wrong. What was it that Joey had?

3. Albert and David bravely spoke up to the Major and Sergeant. What did they offer to do to help Joey get better?

Write-Away

Albert thinks the war will be over soon! What do you think will happen once the war is over?
Chapter 19

Vocab Words
Ominous
Convalescence
Irrational
Incredulous
Hullabaloo

Questions
1. In time, Joey was better and back at the front line. What made things easier for Joey this time around?

2. Maisie Brown is the girl that Albert is very fond of. Describe Maisie and why she is so important to Albert.

3. What happened to David? How does Albert react?

Write-Away
Major Martin announced that the soldiers would be home by Christmas! He also stated that the horses would not be going back and would be staying in France. There will be in auction and they will all be sold. Explain the thoughts and feelings that the soldiers had when this was announced. What do you predict will happen? Will Joey get to go home with Albert? Will Albert have to go home without Joey?
Chapter 20

Farm Words  Vocab Words
Mucking

Questions
1. Sergeant Thunder decided that he was going to bid on Joey at the auction. How did he come up with enough money for the auction?

Write-Away
Joey was the last horse to be sold at the auction. What happened? Who bought him? How do you think Albert is going to react to this?
Chapter 21

Vocab Words
Commiserating
Levity
Proposition
Acceptance
Rapturous
Pealing
Vagaries

Questions
1. Emilie’s grandfather bought Joey! After he spoke with Major Martin and Sergeant Thunder, he came to Albert. What did the man say to Albert? What was the promise that he made Albert keep?

2. How much money did Albert have to give the man to buy Joey?

3. What happened to Emilie?

4. Once Joey got back home to his family and Maisie, what happened?
After finishing the book: Discussion Questions

- Were the predictions made before reading the book correct?
- Why do you think that the book was written from the horse’s point of view?
- What war is taking place? Where does Albert live?
- Why do you think that Albert’s father treats Joey so badly?
- Joey seems to have a good feel of the character of people. Why do you think this is the case?
- Describe Captain Nicholls’ attitude about the war and the use of the cavalry. Describe Herr Hauptmann’s attitude about the war. How are they similar? How do they differ from other peoples’ thinking?
- If you were reading the story from Captain Nicholls’ point of view, what would be the differences in the description of the first battle?
- Why were Joey and Tophorn such a comfort to the wounded men? What can give you comfort in tough situations?
- Discuss the new technology that comes about in this war. Compare and contrast this war with previous war technology. Is Joey useful in this war situation? Why or why not?
- How did Joey feel when he was trapped in No Man’s Land?
- When both the Welshman and the German were trying to help Joey, whom did you want to take the horse? Why? What did the event say about how the soldiers on both sides really felt about the war?
- Joey had relationships with several people in the book — Albert, Captain Nicholls, Warren, and Emile. Joey was a confidante to these people. Why do you think that it was so easy for these people to talk to Joey so openly? In what way was this comforting to them? How did you feel when Joey finally found Albert? Discuss the path that Albert might have taken to put himself in a position to find Joey again. Compare and contrast Joey’s journey with the one that Albert might have made.
The Changing War

**Directions:** The Great War had a great impact on Joey. He weathered through it and gave encouragement to the people and animals around him. Describe each of the relationships that Joey had with the following people or animals.

Joey’s Mother

________________________________________________________________

Albert

________________________________________________________________

Albert’s father

________________________________________________________________

Zoey

________________________________________________________________

Captain Nicholls

________________________________________________________________

Corporal Perkins

________________________________________________________________
Tophorn

Trooper Warren

Emilie

Emilie’s grandfather

Friedrich

After describing each relationship complete the following:

1) Circle the relationship that had the most impact on other people or animals.

2) Place a star by the relationship that meant the most to Joey.

3) Place a check by the relationships whereby the person or animal learned something from Joey.

4) Write a brief story as to how Joey would have impacted you if you were a soldier in the war.
Compare/Contrast

Now that you have read the book *War Horse*, you can watch the film directed by: Steven Spielberg. Create a Venn Diagram sharing the similarities and differences between the film and the book.

**Point of view**

The book is told from Joey’s point of view. What point of view is the movie told from? How could the movie have been told from Joey’s view? How would this make a difference?

**Favorite!**

Which one was your favorite? Why? Write a short one page persuasive paper explaining why it is your favorite.

Watch the Video Book and Movie Trailer to get you started!

http://bcove.me/j1l198bs  Video Book Trailer

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQMA7jB7frM  Movie Trailer

( The movie is rated PG-13 )