

Questions - The War Prayer

1. How does Twain describe the 'visions' of war at the start of the story?
2. What textual evidence exists that the town was religious or had religious beliefs?
How does this contrast with the town's attitude about war?
3. What language does Twain use to contrast the attitudes of the people and the old man about war?
4. Why does Twain compare and contrast these attitudes?
5. What is satirical about the final sentence of the story? What impact does it have on the reader?
6. What is the theme of the story?

Questions - War is Kind

1. Who is the narrator speaking to throughout the poem?
2. The pattern of tone in this poem is all over the place. One minute you have patriotism and the next, loss. Why would Crane do this?
3. Do you believe Crane is writing this sincerely or satirically?
4. Do the soldiers have freewill?
5. Does the fact that Stephen Crane witnessed war up close make this poem a more real or authentic indictment of war?