

AFTER THE DANCING DAYS

LIVING LITERATURE SERIES

MARGARET ROSTKOWSKI

A PERMA-BOUND PRODUCTION

TEACHER'S GUIDE

GUIDE WRITTEN BY MARY ELLEN SNODGRASS

SYNOPSIS

Thirteen-year-old Annie and her mother Katherine stand at the railway station in April to welcome Dr. Lawrence Metcalf, Annie's father, home from World War I. Although Larry did not fight in European battlefields, his work in a New York veteran's hospital a year and a half after the war began is a source of pride. He returns home with a similar enthusiasm for altruistic work. After leaving County Hospital and joining the staff of St. John's Hospital, he treats victims of terrible wounds inflicted by mustard gas, cluster bombs, mortar and phosphorus shells, shrapnel, and other dehumanizing weapons.

Sorrow grips Katherine's family because of the death of her handsome, vivacious uncle, 1st Lieutenant Paul MacLeod, who died in France a year after he volunteered for the military. Annie recalls the romance of riding Uncle Paul's motorcycle and attending a performance of *La Bohème*. Living across the street from her grandparents, she knows the grief that accompanied the telegram that arrived in 1918 with news of Paul's death on June 6. Katherine, who immersed herself in composing piano music during Larry's absence, enabled young musicians to thrive. Gradually, her coterie entered the war, leaving her with bitterness toward the loss of young, creative minds.

Katherine's father, Grandfather MacLeod, who loves and respects Annie, sets an example of outreach to survivors of the war by visiting the hospital to read *Ivanhoe* to Timothy Lewis, who was blinded in battle. Annie extends her weekly trips to the library with visits to St. John's, where Sister Mary Frances shows her around. On the lawn, Annie shares books of maps with twenty-two-year-old Andrew Crayton, a lonely, tormented burn patient who arrived at the hospital in March for treatment of hands and face, which appear melted. On her first gaze at Andrew's wounds, Annie flees from the grotesquely twisted mouth, but later conquers her dismay and becomes his close friend.

Other people in Kansas City do not share Annie's and Grandfather's enthusiasm for volunteer work. Annie's Sunday School teacher, Miss Peterson, disdains a Catholic hospital and believes that death in Europe is preferable to life in a rehabilitation center. To Annie's amazement, her friend Emily echoes those sentiments. At the Fourth of July celebration, the mayor of Kansas City honors the dead by planning a monument, but his plans omit the wounded veterans who still face the nightmare of convalescence, operations, and isolation at St. John's.

On one of Annie's visits to the hospital with Grandfather, he suffers dizziness. Katherine drives to the grounds to take him home and freezes at the sight of her daughter sharing books with such miserably wounded patients. Katherine brushes aside an introduction to Timothy and Andrew and rushes Annie and Grandfather into the car. Because the hospital brings her daughter in contact with ugliness, Katherine ends Annie's

volunteer work.

A heart attack sidelines Grandfather. When he returns home, Katherine accompanies him to Estes Park, Colorado, for six weeks of rest and recovery. Annie deceives her father by concealing her mother's restrictions and taking the streetcar to St. John's. The developing friendship with Andrew leads Annie to question why wounded soldiers received Purple Hearts but her Uncle Paul was not issued the standard award for war wounds.

Grandfather writes Annie and replies to her questions about Paul by directing her to the family Bible, where Grandmother stores the telegram from the Secretary of War announcing Paul's death on June 6, 1918. Annie rereads the death notice, but gains no more information. Andrew learns that Paul's company was not involved in battle in Belleau Wood on that date. Annie questions Henry Cook and Eric Owen. Eric, who was with Paul when he was hospitalized, reports that measles killed him. Annie is crushed by the blow to her notion of Paul as a battlefield hero.

Katherine, who returned from Estes Park during Annie's investigation of Paul's death, rebukes her daughter for disobedience. Annie retorts that her mother is wrong and stands her ground by refusing to abandon volunteer work with the wounded. Tension grows at home as Larry sides with Annie. The news from the hospital, however, is more positive. Timothy regains his vision; Andrew, whose father rejects him for enlisting for military service, finds a job in a Topeka hospital. Annie grieves at the thought of separation from her friend.

Katherine relents in her rejection of hospital visits and drives Annie to St. John's. Katherine surprises Annie by inviting Andrew to dinner and arranging to play a piano recital at St. John's on November 11, the anniversary of the end of World War I. In October, Andrew accompanies Annie to the city memorial ceremony. Afterward, Andrew rides Uncle Paul's motorcycle. On the day of Andrew's departure, he presents Annie a U.S. atlas and his Purple Heart.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Margaret Rostkowski came to writing in her late thirties and currently applies experiences and knowledge to an expanding list of young adult novels. Born to pathologist Ralph Carlisle Ellis and Carlote Leuenberger Ellis, a registered nurse, on January 12, 1945, in Little Rock, Arkansas, Rostkowski was an avid childhood reader of novels, particularly historical fiction. In high school, she studied under a strong teacher of creative writing and decided on teaching and writing as a career. She attended Middlebury College in Vermont and at age 26 earned an MAT from the University of Kansas, the year after she married Charles Anthony "Chuck" Rostkowski, who directs a homeless shelter. The couple, who settled in Ogden, Utah, have a son, David Lee.

Rostkowski taught English and French in middle schools in

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Ogden, Utah, until 1984, when she took a position at Ogden High School, where she is currently employed as English and writing instructor. A Democrat and Quaker, she maintains an interest in travel and in public affairs through membership on the Ogden Board of Adjustments, Friends of the Library, NEA, NCTE, League of Women Voters, and several education associations. She also loves conversations with other writers who wrestle with the same issues of character and motivation which undergird her novels.

CRITIC'S CORNER

Rostkowski drew on family lore for *After the Dancing Days*, particularly family life, the Kansas City setting, the uncles infected by measles and gassed in World War I, and the motorcycle her grandfather rode to his teaching job. She protests the victimization of adults in children's fiction with a more realistic outlook. In Rostkowski's opinion, adults are "people still struggling to learn the best way to lead their lives. We all struggle, every day, and if we are lucky, we all learn, every day." A member of the Society of Children's Book Writers, she received the Golden Kite Award for young adult fiction from the Society of Children's Book Writers. Her work has been named an ALA Best Book, a *Booklist* Children's Editor's Choice, and an IRA Children's Book award winner. In 1987, *After the Dancing Days* netted a Jefferson Cup Award from the Virginia Library Association.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the value of altruism
2. To outline the historical foundations of World War I
3. To evaluate the need for friendship, nurturance, comfort, acceptance, and emotional support
4. To justify a moral decision based on principle
5. To define heroism
6. To discuss the nature of handicaps and their psychological effect on others
7. To comment on relationships between older men and teenage girls
8. To contrast methods of rewarding and glorifying heroes.
9. To characterize a dilemma

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To explain Dr. Metcalf's decision to help wounded veterans
2. To assess Katherine as mother, musician, grieving sister, and citizen
3. To discuss the author's focus on realism
4. To order events which affect Katherine's family, especially Paul's enlistment and death
5. To describe turning points in Annie's relationship with Andrew
6. To define compassion as it applies to volunteers at St. John's Hospital
7. To predict Andrew's success at the hospital in Topeka.
8. To explain why Grandfather encourages Annie to visit the hospital
9. To evaluate Timothy's and Andrew's recovery

MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have a particular meaning in the novel. Explain each. Chapter

and page numbers are given so that you can note the context from which the item is taken.

1. Handsome, strong men who had gone off like Uncle Paul to fight in the battles we had followed on the maps, to fight because of the kings, the Russian czar and the German kaiser, all the names I had learned in the last two years. (Chapter 1, p. 3)
(Annie studies the topographical layout of the war and the persons most responsible for military action, notably Kaiser Wilhelm and Czar Nicholas II, Russia's last emperor. The war was precipitated by the assassination of Franz Ferdinand, archduke of the Austro-Hungarian empire, and his wife on June 28, 1914. German and English forces, which had been building through the decade, clashed on August 4. President Woodrow Wilson tried to maintain U.S. neutrality, but, following a series of naval disasters resulting from German torpedoes, Congress issued a declaration of war against Germany on April 6, 1917, plunging U.S. troops into action. Led by General John J. Pershing, a million soldiers reached Europe by May 1918. The war affected Belgium, Poland, France, Germany, England, Italy, Austria, Turkey, Russia, Arabia, and Palestine as well as peripheral countries. Out of more than 65 million combatants, over eight million died in battle and 21 million were wounded. Added to the carnage were 6.7 million civilian dead, including Czar Nicholas and his family, who were killed by revolutionaries. The cost of World War I reached nearly \$282 billion.)
2. Your grandfather's been going out to read to him. *Ivanhoe*, isn't it? (Chapter 3, p. 19)
(One of romantic literature's most prized novels, Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe*, published in 1819, is set in the grim conflict between Normans and Saxons during the reign of England's Richard I, the great hero of the Crusades. The title character, a Saxon nobleman, courts Rowena, also of aristocratic birth. Rescued by Robin Hood and King Richard from incarceration in a Norman castle, *Ivanhoe* falls in love with Rebecca, a kind Jewess who nurses him to health following a severe wound received in the tournament of Ashby. However, *Ivanhoe* returns to his first love and marries Rowena.)
3. It's *La Bohème*, Annie. My favorite. (Chapter 4, p. 31)
(Annie treasures the memories of a June evening at the opera with Uncle Paul. Giacomo Puccini's appealing, realistic four-act opera, which was first performed in Turin on February 1, 1896, at the Teatro Regio, is adapted from a novel, *Scenes in the Life of a Gypsy*. The story tells of a French seamstress, Mimi, who is ill with tuberculosis. She meets Rodolfo on Christmas Eve and falls in love. Their bumpy courtship continues through winter as Mimi's health declines. Following a separation of many months, the two reunite as Mimi slips toward death.)
4. Most of our men were burned by mustard gas. It's a kind of poison. (Chapter 6, p. 51)
(Chemical poison changed the complexion of international warfare on April 22, 1915, when German troops released compressed chlorine gas against French and Canadian forces at Ypres near Flanders, Belgium. In addition to chlorine, hydrogen cyanide, phosgene, and cyanogen chloride, combatants used mustard gas or dichloro-diethyl sulfide, an oily corrosive which depletes fluid from the

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blood by searing the alveoli, which are small pockets in the lungs. The watery discharge overwhelms the lungs, drowning the victim.

Soldiers, many of whom were trapped by heavy layers of gas in low-lying trenches, donned face masks, pulled up socks, and covered hands, neck, and wrists to keep gas from contaminating exposed areas of their bodies. They climbed to elevated positions where air currents dispelled the poisonous vapor. These sites put whole divisions in the line of fire of machine guns, which caused more deaths than gas, bombs, or other World War I weaponry.)

5. A few days later, on the first Wednesday in July, our Sunday School teacher was taking our class to the Royal Theater in downtown Kansas City to see *Broken Blossoms*, a new motion picture starring Lillian Gish. (Chapter 6, p. 51)

(This realistic detail connects Annie more closely with the era. A black-and-white silent, melodramatic film, made in 1919 by D. W. Griffith for United Artists, *Broken Blossoms* tells of a young girl loved by a Chinese man, played by Donald Crisp. The girl's brutal father murders her, then faces the furious lover, who slays the father, then kills himself. Set in Limehouse, the story appealed to audiences for its realistic use of fog and shadow. The picture earned \$700,000.

Lillian Gish, the twenty-year-old star of the movie, was a veteran of Broadway and film. Starring in Griffith's notorious *Birth of a Nation* in 1912, she developed a lengthy career in cinema, including *Duel in the Sun*, *Intolerance*, *Hearts of the World*, *Way Down East*, *Orphans of the Storm*, and *A Wedding*. It was not until 1971 that she received an Oscar for her performances. A second award at the Kennedy Center in 1982 honored her in her declining years.)

6. Heavy black letters spelled out the words: WORLD PEACE SIGNED AND SEALED AT VERSAILLES. (Chapter 7, p. 59)

(The Paris Peace Conference convened at Versailles, France, on January 18, 1919. Led by Georges Clemenceau of France, Vittorio Orlando of Italy, David Lloyd George of Britain, and Woodrow Wilson of the United States, the group studied peace proposals, including Wilson's fourteen-point plan. Intent on launching a League of Nations, Wilson countered Lloyd George, who carried a grudge against Germany and attempted to stop his enemy from future incursions. Within a week, the Big Four decided to set up the League and to establish a lasting peace.

For fourteen weeks, the group negotiated a treaty to present the defeated Germans. They returned Alsace-Lorraine to France, established occupation and demilitarization terms for the Rhineland, created a Polish outlet to the Baltic Sea, and seized German possessions. Under harsh terms, Germany was to shoulder responsibility for the war, repay the Allies for losses, and defame its leaders as war criminals. Germany rejected the terms; the U.S. Congress failed to bring the accord to a majority vote.)

7. I can't say all those French names very well. (Chapter 13, p. 100)

(Ivanhoe is filled with terms and character and place names derived from Norman culture. Chief among French characters are Brian de Bois-Guilbert, Richard Coeur de Lion or Lion-Hearted, Sir Reginald Front-de-Bœuf, Mont-

Fitchet, Albert Malvoisin, Lucas Beaumanoir, and L'enfant Gâté. A significant pair of French-named settings is Ashby-de-la-Zouche and the attack on Torquilstone as well as Jorvaulx Abbey. French terms include fleurs-de-lis, le don d'amoureuse merci, cardecu, arrêt, liard, despardieux, malvoisie, mort de ma vie, hacquebut, sain, tragetour, and surquedy. Because these terms represent archaic times and ideas, they would not be common knowledge to the average reader.)

8. Belleau Wood. That it? (Chapter 14, p. 105)

(The French village called Bois de Belleau, marked by heavy forestation and rock formations, stands in the northwest territory near Château-Thierry and served as a significant battlefront during World War I. As five German units advanced on U.S. forces on June 5, 1918, American counter-insurgents of the Fourth Marine Brigade and the Army's Second Division halted their movements. By June 25, the engagement passed into history as one of the war's most grueling and most significant battles. In 1923, France honored American losses by renaming the wood the Bois de la Brigade Marine.)

9. My first battle was in the fall, in the Argonne. Another forest. (Chapter 14, p. 105)

(Similar in terrain to Belleau Wood, the Argonne Forest, a rough plateau extending 45 miles along the Meuse and Marne rivers, was the setting of a major clash of German and U.S. forces in 1918. The First Army, bolstered by France's Fourth Army, bombarded German entrenchments previous to September 26, when ground forces began their push. Heavy casualties preceded a gain of only a few miles through dense undergrowth. By the end of October, the forest stood clear of German insurgents, but the cost in human life was a considerable price to pay for it.)

10. A ribbon and a purple heart so dark it looked black hung from a bar covered in purple silk. (Chapter 14, p. 108)

(A military award presented to American troops wounded in battle, the Order of the Purple Heart was instituted by President George Washington in 1782 and revived in 1932. A somber decoration, it consists of a purple ribbon edged in white and suspended from a horizontal bar featuring the same coloration. The pendant—a gold heart centered in black with a gold head and shoulders of George Washington facing left—is topped by a small white shield banded with two red bars and an upper row of three stars. Flanking the shield are two stylized olive branches growing upward.

The Purple Heart contrasts the more ornate Congressional Medal of Honor, Bronze Star, and Distinguished Service Cross in that its colors are subdued and its shape smooth and unobtrusive. Also, it is the only medal featuring purple and black—the others tend toward combinations of red, white, and blue and shinier metals.)

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages from the novel.

Questions 1 - 5 Literal Level

1. What international events undergird the plot of *After the Dancing Days*?

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- (August 4, 1914 President Wilson urges the U.S. to remain neutral in the European war.
- May 7, 1915 German torpedoes sink the British liner Lusitania.
- June 21, 1915 President Wilson warns Germany that the sinking of the liner strains American neutrality.
- December 7, 1915 President Wilson urges Congress to prepare for war.
- June 3, 1916 Congress passes the National Defense Act, organizing a peacetime military.
- February 3, 1917 The U.S. severs diplomatic relations with Germany after the sinking of the U.S.S. Housatonic.
- April 6, 1917 The U.S. declares war on Germany.
- June 14, 1917 General John J. Pershing takes command of the European army.
- June 3, 1918 The U.S. Second Division halts German troops at Château-Thierry and takes Belleau Wood.
- Sept. 21, 1918 Pershing leads the First Army in an attack in the Argonne Forest.
- Nov. 11, 1918 An armistice ends the war with Germany.
- June 28, 1919 The Treaty of Versailles is completed in France.)

2. What is Dr. Lawrence Metcalf's role in the war effort?
(Unlike Uncle Paul, Annie's father, Dr. Lawrence Metcalf, is not shipped to France to work in a war zone. Stationed in New York, he treats returning veterans until the war ends. Upon his arrival at the train station in Kansas City, he returns to civilian life. However, two months before his return, he breaks the news to Katherine that he will continue his work by leaving his job at County Hospital and taking a staff position at St. John's Hospital, a Catholic rehabilitation center for wounded veterans. By way of explanation to Annie, he says, "I must do all I can for them, Annie. All I can. That's all I know.")

3. How does Paul's death affect his family?
(During World War I, John, who wanted to be a soldier, was too young to be drafted, but his older brother Paul, who was so full of life and ambition, chose to join the military. According to Frederick McFarland, a comrade who returns to describe Paul's death to his parents: "He died a hero, I know . . . Because he was a leader, a real leader, I mean, who always thought of his men, and I know that he probably died trying to help one of them." Grandmother weeps openly for her son; Grandfather is proud and touched by Paul's gallantry, but does not lose himself in grief.

In contrast to his parents, Paul's sister, Katherine, grows bitter and turns her thoughts inward. Her grief remains fresh and painful long after the rest of the family has accepted Paul's absence. Larry rides Paul's motorcycle to work. Grandfather speaks comfortably and un sentimentally of Paul in a letter to Annie and admires his carpentry work on the back yard shed. Yet Katherine remains wrapped in private memories and anguish.

Annie, to whom Paul was a dashing idol, also grieves for her handsome, compassionate uncle. However, she expresses her loneliness for him through volunteer work. In

answer to her mother's distaste for wounded veterans, Annie reminds her that Paul might have returned from the war with terrible wounds or burns. Tending Andrew and Timothy enables her to express love for the wounded and, at the same time, for Paul.)

4. What causes the conflict between Annie and Katherine?
(With Larry's concurrence, Annie continues her summer volunteer work at St. John's Hospital despite Katherine's order to stop. During the six weeks that Katherine assists Grandfather at Estes Park, Annie writes letters about daily events, but conceals her visits to Andrew and Timothy. When Katherine returns unexpectedly and presents Annie with a bracelet, the weight of conscience causes Annie to weep and confess, "I've been lying to you all summer. I've been doing what you told me not to do."

The conflict grows more heated after Annie accuses her mother of being wrong and vows to continue visits to St. John's. The disagreement grows more complex after Larry comes home from work. The argument grows unpleasant as Annie and her father appear to team up against Katherine. In anger, Larry concludes to his wife, "You've never come to visit, so you don't know what the men are doing or how they look, or most importantly, what kind of people they are." Katherine, stricken by the harshness of his tone, turns aside and confesses, "I can't face it . . . You can't ask that of me.")

5. What changes Katherine?
(With grudging acquiescence from her mother, Annie returns to daily visits to the wounded. In late September, Mrs. Crayton visits the Metcalf home and presents Annie a gift of apples in gratitude for her help to Andrew. Mrs. Metcalf comments to the family, "You've done so much for Andrew, Dr. Metcalf. And you Annie . . . Well, it made me feel better to know he had friends here. More than just the people at the hospital. And I want you to know that I thank you."

Before leaving the Metcalf home, Mrs. Crayton reveals the split in her own family. Because Andrew joined the service without his father's permission, Mr. Crayton refuses to visit his son. The situation is particularly harsh on a farm family who must drive a long distance to St. John's in Kansas City. Katherine appears to be moved by the family's dilemma.

When Annie learns that Andrew is leaving Kansas City, she runs three blocks through the rain toward St. John's. Katherine, who has changed her attitude toward the visits, picks her up in the car, hands her towel and sweater, and takes her the rest of the way. As Katherine learns the hard truth that Andrew does not feel welcome at home, she decides to invite him to dinner. The evening is such a success that Katherine agrees to a November 11 piano concert at St. John's. The night of the performance, she is still nervous, but determined to do her best for the waiting audience.)

Questions 6 - 8 Interpretive Level

6. Why does the war place so many burdens on people a year after the armistice?
(As Larry points out, the men who died in France were the lucky ones. The wounded—especially those with extensive burn scars, lung wounds, and amputated limbs—face

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extensive rehabilitation. Some, like Andrew, suffer more pain from plastic surgery to remove scar tissue. Others, like Timothy, experience a more promising convalescence concluding with recovery and reclamation into family life. And some, like Eric, live out a painful decline ending in death.

Katherine and her parents also suffer post-war trauma. In watching other men recover and knowing that Paul deliberately enlisted and lost his life, Katherine grows bitter. Paul had such promise and brought the family so much joy that his absence leaves a gaping hole in their activities. To Katherine, Paul, like the boys who visited her home to enjoy her music, were wasted in battle. The news that he died of measles rather than in a more military fashion casts greater stress on her during the extensive recovery period. Unlike Grandfather, she is willing to give up a portion of her life in extensive grieving, an emotional response which stymies the healing process.)

7. How does Annie change over the summer while Katherine is away?

(While Katherine attends to Grandfather MacLeod in Estes Park, Annie learns to take charge of her actions, to accept adult responsibility, and to live up to humanitarian principles which reflect her father's influence. Like many children, growing into adulthood requires a sorting out of the attitudes and conflicts which separate parents. By siding with her father, Annie exacerbates her mother's feeling of alienation.

Another outcome of Annie's volunteer work is distancing herself from priggish critics like Miss Peterson and breaking with Emily and Darby, who remain on the fringe of the war's devastation because they have no reason to look at wounded veterans. While Annie conquers her revulsion and accepts the terrible wounds which men like Andrew must cope with, her peers launch an artificial patriotic fervor surrounding the dedication of a monument to the dead. To Annie, the dead face no sufferings akin to the ongoing pain of Eric, Timothy, Henry, and Andrew.)

8. What effect does Annie have on Andrew's depression?
(Andrew Crayton is depressed because he has no face and because his hands are limited in articulation by burn scars. Without a normal facade, he feels cut off from people who shudder at the sight of his twisted mouth and layer of scar tissue. Because his father rejects him, Andrew begins to reject himself and shuts himself off from the other men at St. John's. Annie, too, on first seeing Andrew, turns away at a sight that is more appalling than she anticipated.

The surprising fact of Annie's friendship is that she conquers her dismay and returns for regular visits to the wounded. By sharing games of checkers and perusals of library books on travel in distant countries, she draws Andrew into the part of herself which is the fundamental Annie. Without pretense or artificial cheer, Annie develops a love of Andrew's inner being. Thus, their relationship has little to do with surface appearance.

By the time that Andrew begins making friends again, Annie has her own problems to solve. Andrew, no longer a cripple accepting charitable visits, cushions her pain in unraveling the reason for Paul's failure to receive a Purple Heart. Andrew develops compassion for Annie and as-

sists her in accepting Paul's ignoble death from measles as one of the hard ironies of war. As Andrew moves into normal life, he resolves to make up with his father and to continue his friendship with Annie, who has helped reestablish his ties with the world outside St. John's Hospital.)

Questions 9 and 10 - Critical Level

9. Why is *After the Dancing Days* a serious young adult study of war?

(Although there are no battles or armaments in the novel, the story directs reader attention to a more devastating fact of war—that the battlefield conflict is only a minor part of the pain of loss. When troops complete their mission and armistices are signed, the wounded return home to families who have difficulty accepting the changes, both physical and emotional, in the ones they love. People like Mr. Crayton prolong the suffering by rejecting the person most in need of acceptance. Katherine, who is similar to Mr. Crayton in her immersion in selfish grieving, learns from Mrs. Crayton to value Annie, Grandfather MacLeod, and Larry as emissaries to the wounded who bring hope and friendship in a dark and unpromising transition from battle victim to healing veteran.)

10. Why is the ending a suitable conclusion of Annie's outreach?

(Because of the differences in their ages, Annie and Andrew would not have made a suitable couple. Moving away from romantic involvement, both characters face adjustments—Annie to adolescence and Andrew to work and family. Thus, by parting amicably, the two gravitate toward appropriate spheres of interest. The gift of the Purple Heart is a symbolic conclusion in that it reflects Annie's need to end her grieving for Paul and to conclude a satisfying relationship with a wounded friend.

In some respects, the Purple Heart also symbolizes Annie's pain. Like a battle victim, she has endured a childhood trauma as surely as the residents of Belleau Wood and the Argonne Forest. In giving up her gallant uncle, she has learned the most lasting lesson of war—that nothing can go back to the way it was. By helping to heal her mother's trauma, Annie has inched closer to a maturity which began on her first visit to St. John's Hospital. The tangible reward serves as a token of friendship as well as a medal to Annie's bravery, loyalty, and perseverance.)

Questions 11-14 - Creative Level

11. Compose a conversation with a critic in which you discuss your response to *After the Dancing Days*. Be specific about your likes and dislikes in young adult literature and your assessment of Margaret Rostkowski's depiction of the trauma of serious wartime injury. List detailed scenes which illustrate why the men have difficulty returning to normal society.
12. List moments which indicate that Annie and Andrew share a lasting friendship. Explain why Annie and Larry work so hard at building Andrew's self-esteem.
13. Compose an oral report on the battles of the Argonne Forest and Belleau Wood. Include a battle map which indicates the placement of troops from various nations, particularly France, England, the U.S., and Germany.
14. Draw a genealogy of Annie's family. Include grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

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ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Math

1. Collect lines from the novel which disclose passage of time and the relative ages of the characters. For example, note that Annie is thirteen and that Timothy and Andrew are probably twenty-two. Also, the St. John's piano concert takes place on November 11 a year after the war ends.
2. Compute the distance from Kansas City to Estes Park, Colorado; New York; Topeka; Belleau Wood; Ile de France; and the Argonne Forest.

Economics

Make a chart of monetary losses from American involvement in World War I. Divide losses into deaths, medical expenses, weapons, transportation, and other costs. Include similar information about other nations, particularly France, England, and Germany.

Social Studies

1. Write a speech honoring Kansas City's World War I wounded and dead. Comment on subsequent wars, including World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars.
2. Give an overview of the causes of World War I and the involvement of Kaiser Wilhelm and Czar Nicholas II. Name significant American, French, and English military figures, particularly Marshal Foch and General John J. Pershing.
3. Make an oral presentation on awards such as the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. Explain the derivation of both medals and the approximate number that have been awarded.

Psychology

1. Discuss the psychological problems faced by maimed and disfigured war veterans. Suggest possible solutions to their feelings of rejection, isolation, and uselessness, such as jobs, hobbies, letter writing, athletics, music, games, and friendships.
2. Using Annie and Katherine as models, create an extended definition of *dilemma*. Explain how Annie gets into a situation where she must choose between obedience to her mother and love for Andrew. Note that the timing of Annie's dilemma coincides with normal adolescent stirrings of independence and maturity.

Cinema

1. Make a list of dramatic scenes from the novel which would require intense use of lighting, costume, makeup, music, props, and stunts, particularly the ride on the motorcycle, the Armistice Day concert at St. John's, Andrew's appearance at the Kansas City war memorial dedication ceremony, Timothy's recovery of his vision, Grandfather's heart attack, and Annie's attendance at a Lillian Gish film.
2. Name war movies which capture the horror of trench warfare, notably *Johnny Got His Gun*, *Gallipoli*, and *All Quiet on the Western Front*.

Science and Health

1. Explain why scar tissue can require plastic surgery.
2. Give an oral report on mustard gas and the damage it does to skin and lungs.

3. Draw a wall chart of the gas mask. Point out how filtration removes poisonous gas from the air. Add comments on the role of Garrett Morgan, African-American inventor of the gas mask.
4. Compose a paragraph about temporary blindness. Explain why concussion can suppress parts of the brain which control vision.

Language

1. Using examples from the novel, compose an encouraging note from the Secretary of War to parents who have lost sons.
2. Make a report on Sir Walter Scott, author of *Ivanhoe*. Explain why recovering soldiers might enjoy reading a novel about medieval knights and tournaments.

Art and Music

1. Use desktop publishing or other artistic forms to create a poster announcing the Kansas City monument to war heroes or a performance of *La Bohème*, an announcement of the dedication ceremony, a schedule from the trolley station to St. John's Hospital, a map showing the way from Kansas City to Estes Park, Colorado, or Topeka, Kansas, a schematic drawing of an early twentieth-century Harley-Davidson motorcycle, a theater timetable for showings of *Broken Blossoms*, and a chart of armored vehicles, poisons, bombs, and other weapons used in World War I.
2. Select music to delineate the contrast between patriotic parades and the elegaic mood at St. John's Hospital.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Relate the following literary terms to *After the Dancing Days*: literary foils, denouement, symbol, simile, flat and round characters, stereotyping, epistle, dialogue, conflict, atmosphere, mood, motivation, rising action, climax, falling action, and tone.
2. Lead a discussion of adult responsibilities to children. Determine what Annie learns from Miss Peterson, Grandfather, Grandmother, Sister Mary Frances, Katherine, Larry, Mrs. Crayton, Uncle Paul, Ruth, and Uncle John.
3. Write a minor character's diary entry on significant days, particularly Sister Mary Frances on the day of the baseball game, Grandmother on the day the telegram arrives, Miss Peterson on the dedication of the war monument, Aunt Felicia after Grandfather's hospitalization, Uncle Mark on the morning that Grandfather and Katherine leave for Colorado, the mayor on Armistice Day, and Emily following the viewing of a Lillian Gish movie.
4. Contrast the forces which cause World War I. Create a newspaper written from the point of view of school children whose parents, friends, and relatives leave for the front.
5. Compose a theme describing the expectations, limitations, and opportunities for a wounded veteran. Explain why acceptance is essential to self-esteem. Add comments about the receipt of medals.
6. Draw several views of the grounds of St. John's Hospital. Show how nurses, volunteers, relatives, and doctors entertain and encourage patients to live as normally as possible.
7. Publish a compendium of lyrics from popular music of the World War I era, particularly "It's a Long Way to Tipperary," "Hinky Dinky Parley Voo," "Over There," "Kaiser Bill,"

AFTER THE DANCING DAYS

"Smile, Smile, Smile," "Keep the Home Fires Burning," and "There's a Long, Long Trail A-Winding."

8. Organize a debate concerning ethical choices as it applies to Paul's and Andrew's decisions to enlist. Include commentary on differentiating between duty to self and family and duty to country.

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. List in chronological order significant events in Annie's life, particularly the night at *La Bohème*, Andrew's departure for Topeka, Grandfather's heart attack, Larry's return from New York, Katherine's discovery of the deception, the first trip to St. John's, the Lillian Gish movie, and the mayor's dedication of the monument.
2. Make a list of scenes from the novel which express contrasting attitudes toward depression, loyalty, the arts, friendship, self-esteem, loss, patriotism, responsibility, deception, and heroism. Next to each, indicate what you think is the author's personal philosophy.
3. Compose brief definitions of maturity and altruism as they apply to Grandfather, Annie, Paul, and Larry Metcalf.
4. List scenes which depict conflict, particularly Annie's first view of Andrew, Katherine's return from Estes Park, Miss Peterson's rude comments about Catholics, and Annie's dismay that Paul died of measles.

ROSTKOWSKI'S PUBLISHED WORKS

After the Dancing Days, 1986

The Best of Friends, 1989

RELATED READING

Peter Bosco's *World War I*

Aleksiei A. Brusilov's *A Soldier's Notebook*

Tim Cross's *The Lost Voices of World War I: An International Anthology of Writers, Poets and Playwrights*

Milton Dank's *Khaki Wings*

Steven L. Jantzen's *Hooray for Peace, Hurrah for War*

Albert Marrin's *The Yanks Are Coming*

Brian Murdoch's *Fighting Songs and Warring Words: Popular Lyrics of Two World Wars*

Erich Maria Remarque's *All Quiet on the Western Front*

Stewart Ross's *War in the Trenches*

Karl Shapiro's "The Leg"

Dalton Trumbo's *Johnny Got His Gun*

William Carlos Williams's *Poems*

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Contemporary Authors. Vol. 127. Detroit: Gale, 1989.

Lepman-Logan, Claudia, "Books in the Classroom: Moral Choices in Literature," *Horn Book*, January/February 1989.

Roback, Diane, "Children's Books—Fiction: After the Dancing Days," *Publishers Weekly*, 26 Sept. 1986, 84, 87.

_____, "Children's Books: Fiction—The Best of Friends," *Publishers Weekly*, 13 Oct. 1989, 54-55.

Something About the Author. Vol. 59. Detroit: Gale, 1989.

AFTER THE DANCING DAYS

VOCABULARY TEST

Select synonyms from the list that follows for the underlined words below. Place your choices in the blanks. You will have answers left over when you finish.

abstained	bondage	craning	hallowed	oppression	sacrificing
administering	bosom	despair	humble	patriotism	supreme
appropriate	burnishes	dominance	kindled	rational	trounce
attest	citizenship	fickle	midst	rejoice	wavering
autocrats	contributing	glinted	obscured	representative	wry

The general populace (1) _____ will show (2) _____

in no small measure, through this celebration, the appreciation of the community for the splendid record made by our men in military and naval service and will also celebrate the delivery of the world from military tyranny (3) _____.

The torch of liberty that we lit (4) _____ is now held high over the world.

The mighty have been thrown down, the lowly (5) _____ raised up, the last of the great military tyrants (6) _____ has been swept from his seat of power.

Peoples who have lived in slavery (7) _____ or persecution (8) _____, teetering (9) _____ between age-long hopelessness (10) _____

and newborn hope, are creating and executing (11) _____ their own governments.

It is an Independence Day we share with the whole world.

But friends, today we have something else to remember. In the center (12) _____ of the general gaiety, we must remember those who are not here with us to celebrate this year, those who made the highest (13) _____ sacrifice that we might all exult (14) _____ at this sacred (15) _____ day.

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COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Character Identification (30 points)

Identify the characters described below.

- _____ 1. tells Grandmother and Grandfather about Paul's death.
- _____ 2. was with Paul when he died.
- _____ 3. lost both legs from mortar fire.
- _____ 4. deceives Larry by concealing Katherine's orders.
- _____ 5. is rude to Timothy at St. John's.
- _____ 6. flees from Andrew on first viewing his facial wounds.
- _____ 7. dedicates the town war memorial.
- _____ 8. leaves *Ivanhoe* where Annie can find it.
- _____ 9. was too young to be drafted.
- _____ 10. apologizes for rude remarks about Andrew.
- _____ 11. reads the Sunday School class subtitles from *Broken Blossoms*.
- _____ 12. rides Paul's Harley-Davidson to work.
- _____ 13. goes to live with a sister in St. Louis.
- _____ 14. escorts Annie to her father the first day at St. John's.
- _____ 15. gives Annie a U.S. atlas.

Part II: Quotation Identification (20 points)

Beside each quotation place the name of the speaker (a) and the person being addressed (b).

- _____ 1a. This means your mother is finally accepting everything that's happened. Beginning with
- _____ 1b. Paul's death.

- _____ 2a. And it's more than the way he looks, his face and all. When he came back, he'd changed
- _____ 2b. inside.

- _____ 3a. I don't think you'd be happy selling shoes.
- _____ 3b.

- _____ 4a. I'll miss him every day I have left to live, but I'll not give up the rest of my life for him . . .
- _____ 4b. That does him no good.

- _____ 5a. He's had plastic surgery on his face and they're working on his hands now in therapy.
- _____ 5b.

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COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Underline an answer to complete each statement below.

1. (Grandmother, Ruth, Larry, Katherine) considers a 22-year-old man too old for Annie.
2. (*La Bohème*, Belleau, Argonne, *Ivanhoe*) means "pretty water."
3. Annie is surprised to learn that her uncle could (ride a motorcycle, play Schubert's piano works, do carpentry work, sing Italian opera).
4. Without (Andrew's letter, Eric's eyewitness account, the telegram, Henry's description), Annie would never have known that Paul died of measles.
5. (The motorcycle, *Ivanhoe*, The monument, Katherine's performance) gives Andrew a sense of freedom.
6. Darby cruelly suggests that Annie (read *Frankenstein*, not see *Broken Blossoms*, give up volunteer work, lie to her mother).
7. With the help of (Grandfather, Larry, Timothy, Sister Mary Frances), Andrew gets a job at a Topeka hospital.
8. Annie practices the songs but does not want to (sing at St. John's, play the piano for Katherine, go to *La Bohème*, attend the dedication).
9. For Katherine, (composing music, cooking, traveling in Colorado, reading Sherlock Holmes) is a pleasant escape.
10. The (copy of *Ivanhoe*, bracelet, rug, bouquet of roses) weighs on Annie's conscience.

Part II: Identification (20 points)

Place an X by any statement that is true of Annie.

- _____ 1. owns a dog named Fidelio.
- _____ 2. greets Larry at the train station upon his return from New York.
- _____ 3. conceals her squeamishness about returning to St. John's.
- _____ 4. requests to accompany Grandfather to Colorado.
- _____ 5. never locates the telegram in the family Bible.
- _____ 6. recalls that Paul treated her like an adult.
- _____ 7. helps Sister Mary Frances on the wards.
- _____ 8. quarrels with Miss Peterson and Emily at the movie.
- _____ 9. regrets that her father chooses to work among Catholics.
- _____ 10. loves reading atlases and books about travel.

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Part III: Completion (20 points)

Fill in a name or term which completes each of these statements.

1. Grandfather rests and enjoys the mountain air in _____, Colorado.
2. Henry is certain that Paul's platoon was not at _____ on June 6, 1918.
3. During the war years, Annie learns about the Russian _____ and the German kaiser.
4. Annie and Katherine await Larry's return at the _____ train station.
5. On the purple heart was the profile of _____.
6. Eric recalls that Paul earned the _____ for bravery.
7. Andrew's first battle was in the _____ forest.
8. Frederick indicates that Paul was a member of the _____ Division, who went forward to relieve the Marines.
9. Among Paul's personal effects was a book of poems by _____.
10. According to the telegram, in the summer of 1918, Newton Baker was _____.

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answer any TWO in complete sentences.

1. Explain how Grandfather encourages Annie to accept mature responsibilities.
2. Discuss why Katherine still grieves for Paul.
3. Analyze the citation which is the source of the book's title.

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Test

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. citizenship | 9. wavering |
| 2. attest | 10. despair |
| 3. dominance | 11. administering |
| 4. kindled | 12. midst |
| 5. humble | 13. supreme |
| 6. autocrats | 14. rejoice |
| 7. bondage | 15. hallowed |
| 8. oppression | |

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Character Identification (30 points)

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Frederick McFarland | 9. John |
| 2. Eric Owen | 10. Emily |
| 3. Henry Cook | 11. Miss Peterson |
| 4. Annie | 12. Larry Metcalf |
| 5. Katherine | 13. Timothy |
| 6. Annie | 14. Sister Mary Frances |
| 7. mayor | 15. Andrew |
| 8. Grandfather | |

Part II: Quotation Identification (20 points)

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1a. Ruth | 4a. Grandfather |
| 1b. Annie | 4b. Annie |
| 2a. Mrs. Crayton | 5a. Larry |
| 2b. Metcalfs | 5b. Katherine |
| 3a. Annie | |
| 3b. Paul | |

Part III: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. T | 6. T |
| 2. F | 7. F |
| 3. F | 8. F |
| 4. T | 9. T |
| 5. T | 10. F |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

Comprehension Test B

Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

1. Katherine
2. Belleau
3. do carpentry work
4. Eric's eyewitness account
5. The motorcycle
6. read *Frankenstein*
7. Larry
8. attend the dedication
9. composing music
10. bracelet

Part II: Identification (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. X | 6. X |
| 2. X | 7. |
| 3. X | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. X |

Part III: Completion (20 points)

1. Estes Park
2. Belleau Wood
3. czar
4. Kansas City
5. George Washington
6. Bronze Star
7. Argonne
8. Second
9. William Carlos Williams
10. Secretary of War

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

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