



# STM Knowledge Organiser



**Year: 9**

**Subject: English**

**Unit: Private Peaceful**

## Core Knowledge (Approaching the Text)

- The book was shortlisted for several awards including the Carnegie Medal and for the Blue Peter Best Book of the Last 10 Years Award.
- In 2009, Michael Morpurgo travelled to Ypres in Belgium to better understand World War 1. In a war cemetery, five miles outside of Ypres, he found a grave bearing the name Private Peaceful.
- The front cover of a novel will help the reader to make predictions about the story.

## Core Knowledge (Social and Historical Context)

- Dates of World War 1: 1914 – 1918
- By the end of 1914 1,186,337 men had enlisted.
- Men were encouraged to join up with their friends as a way to recruit more soldiers.
- These groups became known as 'Pals Battalions'.
- In 1916 a law was passed to say men had to join whether they wanted to or not. This was called conscription.
- During World War 1, nearly 300 British Army soldiers were executed by firing squad for desertion and cowardice. Many of the men were suffering from shell shock, and in 2006 they were granted pardons.

## Core Knowledge (Analysing Language)

Writers will use a range of techniques to influence the reader. Some of these techniques are:

Symbolism

Alliteration

A range of verbs, adverbs or adjectives

A variety of sentence structures

Simile

Metaphor

## Core Knowledge (Analysing Structure)

Most stories have a set structure:

Exposition (the characters, setting and place are revealed)

Rising Action (the action starts to move more quickly)

Complication (the characters face or try to solve a problem)

Climax (the crucial moment when tension is at its peak)

Falling Action (the tension starts to ease and the consequences of the climax are explored)

Resolution (the story's central problem is resolved)

## Key Vocabulary

Connotation	<i>An idea or feeling which a word creates for the reader in addition to its literal meaning e.g. Fire=Hell, danger or warning</i>
Symbol	<i>A thing that represents or stands for something else e.g. a rose is a symbol of love.</i>
Recruitment	<i>The action of enlisting new people in the armed forces</i>
Enlist	<i>To join the armed services.</i>
Court Martial	<i>A judicial court for trying members of the armed services accused of offences against military law</i>
Structure	<i>The arrangement of story elements i.e. how the plot is presented to the reader</i>
Flashback	<i>A reference to a past event, giving the reader an insight into the past of the narrator</i>
Resolution	<i>The unfolding or solution of a complicated issue in a story</i>
Protagonist	<i>The main character in a novel, film or play</i>
Tension	<i>An element in a novel that brings out (evokes) emotions such as worry, anxiety, fear and stress on the part of both the reader and the characters in a novel</i>
Annotate	<i>To add notes to a text</i>
Summarise	<i>Give a brief statement of the main points</i>



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## Core Knowledge (Key characters)

**Mrs Peaceful** (mother )

**Tommo Peaceful** (the main character)

**Charlie Peaceful** (older brother)

**Big Joe Peaceful** (eldest brother)

**Molly** (a friend of the family)

**Colonel** ( big landowner who owns the cottage the Peacefuls live in)

**Grandma Wolf** (the children's grandmother)

**Sergeant 'Horrible' Hanley** (trains the soldiers)

**Captain Wilkes** (once a choir master and briefly in charge of the regiment in France)

**Anna** (the daughter of the tavern owner in France)

## Core Knowledge (Key Events)

**Chapter 1:** Tommo remembers his first day at school. The chapter ends with the death of his father, for which he feels responsible.

**Chapter 2:** Tommo and Charlie become friends with Molly. Mrs Peaceful takes a job caring for the Colonel's wife up at the 'Big House'.

**Chapter 3:** Mrs Peaceful loses her job when the Colonel's wife dies suddenly and for a time the family has no income and the children go hungry. Molly falls ill with Scarlet fever.

**Chapter 4:** Tommo and Charlie are caught poaching. Their punishment is to clean out the Colonel's hunt kennels. Charlie becomes attached to a dog called Bertha. Molly and Charlie leave school for jobs in the 'Big House' and Tommo is alone in the classroom.

**Chapter 5:** Mother buys Bertha and Charlie is dismissed from his job and goes to work for Farmer Cox. Molly's parents try to prevent her from seeing Charlie and Tommo acts as a go-between delivering letters. Bertha is shot by the Colonel.

**Chapter 6:** Big Joe goes missing following the shooting of Bertha. He is found in the church bell tower.

**Chapter 7:** Molly is going to have Charlie's baby and they are married. Charlie and Tommo enlist, even though Tommo is underage.

**Chapter 8:** The brothers complete their training and journey to France. At Etaples they meet Sergeant 'Horrible' Hanley who targets both boys.

**Chapter 9:** The brothers are moved to the front line. Tommo meets Anna. The boys see their first serious warfare and Captain 'Wilkie' is shot and carried by Charlie to safety, despite the shells falling on them.

**Chapter 10:** The brothers are in the trenches at Ypres and Charlie is wounded. He is sent home to recover. Tommo learns that the new sergeant is to be 'Horrible' Hanley.

**Chapter 11:** Tommo's is caught up in a gas attack. Charlie and Mollie's baby is born and they have named him Tommo. Anna is killed by a stray shell. Tommo is injured.

**Chapter 12 :** Tommo is dug out of the bombed crater. Charlie argues with Hanley about the futility of an attack but Hanley is adamant and threatens Charlie with a court martial. Charlie insists he will stay in the dugout to look after Tommo. After the battle, Charlie is arrested and taken away.

**Chapter 13 :** Tommo sees his brother for a final meeting before he is to be executed. Tommo returns home to England.