

A Soldier's Surprise

10 Waking up on Christmas morning was just like any other
20 morning in the trenches. The cold was unbearable and I
24 couldn't feel my feet.

34 There was a feeling that we should celebrate, but how
46 could we do that when we were at war? We sat quietly
55 reflecting on our situation and thinking about family and
56 friends.

66 Suddenly, we heard a noise coming from across 'No Man's
76 Land'. We sat silently, waiting for an attack. No attack
84 came. The German soldiers slowly appeared carrying
93 lanterns and softly singing a tune that resembled 'Silent
103 Night'. For the next few moments, we watched in stunned
113 silence. Bravery eventually took over and we set off. We
123 met in the middle of the field and exchanged simple
132 gifts (chocolates from us and sausages from the German
133 soldiers).

141 Suddenly, a damaged football appeared on the ground
150 between us. There was only one thing to do...



Quick Questions



1. What gifts were given and by whom?



2. Why do you think that 'Bravery eventually took over'?



3. How did the author's mood change through the day?



4. What do you predict the soldier wrote about next in his diary?

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Quick Questions



1. What gifts were given and by whom?
Accept: chocolate from the British troops to the Germans and sausages from the German troops to British.



2. Why do you think that 'Bravery eventually took over'?
Accept any explanation that identifies that there was the possibility of attack or a trap but they bravely chose to meet and celebrate together anyway. E.g. Bravery took over because even though there was a chance that they would be attacked, the troops walked into No Man's Land to celebrate Christmas.



3. How did the author's mood change through the day?
Accept any response which shows that the author's mood improved. E.g. In the morning, he felt despondent because it was the same as any other day. Then he felt anxious about attack. At the end he felt happy and relaxed due to exchanging gifts and playing football.



4. What do you predict the soldier wrote about next in his diary?
Accept a reasonable explanation, such as: playing football with the soldiers, enjoying the rest of the day playing games together, discussing and comparing gifts, returning back to their trenches at night time.