

# QUICK CARD: THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE



<i>Reference</i>	<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i> . Stephen Crane. (1895) ISBN-13: 978-0486264653
<i>Plot</i>	When young Henry Fleming enlists in the Civil War, he dreams of epic battles and heroism. His encounter with the reality of war will change his perspective.
<i>Setting</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Civil War battle loosely based upon the Battle of Chancellorsville</li> <li>• Henry's youth</li> <li>• The battlefield</li> <li>• The woods</li> <li>• The interior of Henry's mind</li> </ul>
<i>Characters</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Henry Fleming – (protagonist) a youth endeavoring to come of age. He longs to have courage and become a war hero.</li> <li>• Wilson – also called the loud or boasting soldier. He becomes a dedicated soldier whose experience grants him humility and concern for others.</li> <li>• The Cheery Soldier – the friendly, helpful soldier who befriends Henry when he returns after his cowardly flight</li> <li>• The General – he demeans Henry's unit and goads Henry to fight</li> <li>• Jim Conklin – (also called the tall soldier) His confidence encourages and inspires the new soldiers. Henry witnesses his unheroic and meaningless death.</li> <li>• Lieutenant Hasbrouck – Union leader who calls Henry "wildcat" in his second engagement</li> <li>• The Tattered Soldier – the talkative and friendly soldier whom Henry deserts because he asks too many questions that might expose Henry as a phony and a liar</li> </ul>

<p><i>Conflict</i></p>	<p>Man vs. Society; Man vs. Himself; Man vs. Man: Will Henry find the courage he seeks and become a war hero? Will Henry find a way to reconcile himself with his cowardly behavior? Will Henry gain experience and become a man?</p>
<p><i>Theme</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature’s indifference to man’s fate</li> <li>• The need for social and human empathy and action</li> <li>• The impossibility of courage in a purely material world without God</li> <li>• Man as a machine/animal</li> <li>• Coming of Age – Naiveté to Experience</li> <li>• Survival of the Fittest</li> <li>• Fragmented Man – the Meaninglessness of Life</li> </ul>
<p><i>Literary Devices</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Imagery – use of vivid language to create pictures which represent abstract ideas</li> <li>• Symbolism – an extended metaphor or image that draws on story themes</li> <li>• Literary Realism – represents society “as it really is.” Literary realists demonstrate a great concern for accurate representations of reality.</li> <li>• Regionalism/Local Color – use of dialect and description to realistically portray a particular region or locality</li> <li>• Negative Capability – the ability to live with the seeming paradox of human existence (to live as though there were meaning in a world without meaning). This is one of the major ideas of modernist literature.</li> <li>• Social Determinism/ Social Darwinism – idea that heredity and social environment determine one’s character and shape one’s actions. This replaces ideals and virtue. Only the fittest survive.</li> <li>• Darwinism – evolutionary theory which influenced motive in character development for Crane (i.e. man is an animal who acts via instinct and not any higher orders or faculties. He’s a bundle of cells subject to genetic ancestry and conditioned by social and economic circumstances.)</li> <li>• Naturalism – realistic literary representations of nature. An outgrowth of literary realism.</li> </ul>