

Saving Private Ryan

Photocopiable

While reading

Chapters 1–2

1 Who says these things? What are they talking about? What do their words show about their feelings or their character?

- a "Do you really think we're going to be taking any more boat rides after this?"
- b "I guess they don't do much boating back home."
- c "Two-thirds, at the most."
- d "It's time to make your peace with God."
- e "Keep it simple, move fast, stay apart ... Good luck."
- f "It looks like there's a little opposition."

Chapter 3

2 Match the beginnings and endings to complete the explanations of events in Chapter 3.

- a The soldiers took off their backpacks
- b Captain Miller and Delancey swam underwater
- c Miller continued to carry Delancey's body after he was dead
- d Everything suddenly went quiet for Miller
- e Soldiers were sitting against the stone sea wall
- f Soldiers took other soldiers' guns
- g Sarge didn't want Miller to be killed
- 1) because it would mean he would have to be in charge.
- 2) because the explosion had made him temporarily deaf.
- 3) because their own had sand in them and the soldiers whose guns they took were dead.
- 4) to avoid being hit by bullets.
- 5) to make it easier to move.
- 6) to protect himself.
- 7) to protect themselves against machine-gun fire.

Chapter 4

3 Are these statements true (T) or false (F)?

- a Edward Wade, the medic, saves the life of a badly wounded soldier. ☐
- b Two engineers make special explosives to blow a hole in the sea wall. ☐
- c Miller shoots the German soldier who comes looking for his dog. ☐
- d The dog shows Miller and his men a safe route through the mines. ☐
- e The four young soldiers succeed in getting across the open ground. ☐

Chapters 5–6

4 Finish these sentences.

- a Reiben would like to be in Caen because
- b Mellish says that their military training did not
- c Compared with Miller and his men the officers at field headquarters have
- d Lieutenant Colonel Walter Anderson explains to Miller
- e Miller describes the new mission to his waiting men as a
- f Corporal Upham joins the squad because Miller needs someone

5 Match the words with their meanings.

- a colonel
- b general
- c mission
- d paratrooper
- e squad
- f civilian
- g dog tags
- h sniper
- 1) small pieces of metal that soldiers wear round their necks with their name, etc written on them
- 2) a small group of soldiers working together as a unit
- 3) a high rank in the army
- 4) a soldier who is trained to jump out of a plane using a parachute
- 5) someone who is not a member of the armed forces
- 6) someone who shoots at unprotected people from a hidden position
- 7) a very high rank in the army
- 8) a very important job

Chapter 7

6 Who says these things? What are they talking about?

- a "I was just wondering if you expect to have more room on the way back."
- b "We're risking our lives to save a farmer?"
- c "Now isn't that worth risking your lives for?"
- d "Everybody else is behind us."
- e "I've read a lot about that method of attack."
- f "Maybe this Private Ryan's good luck."

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Chapter 8

7 Put these events in the correct order 1–8.

- a ☐ Nelson is killed by German bullets as he tries to reach another part of the village.
- b ☐ Caparzo is hit by German sniper fire.
- c ☐ Miller crosses the street, avoiding bullets, and meets Goldman and Hill.
- d ☐ Caparzo takes the little French girl in his arms and plays with her.
- e ☐ Miller and his squad arrive in the occupied village of Neuville-au-Plain.
- f ☐ Jackson shoots the German sniper.
- g ☐ Miller grabs the French children and takes them to safety.
- h ☐ Miller and his squad meet a French family hiding in a damaged building.

Chapters 9–10

8 Match and decide. As the squad continue their search for Ryan, Reiben thinks about the four possible results of their mission.

- a Match the four options A–D with the situation and Reiben's comment on each.
- b Which are the best and the worst situations for the men?

	Situation	Results
A	Ryan is dead.	Ryan survives but the rest of the squad get killed.
B	Ryan has been dead for a long time.	The squad will have to carry Ryan.
C	Ryan is wounded.	While the squad is making absolutely sure Ryan is dead, they are killed by Germans.
D	Ryan is alive.	The squad takes Ryan's dog tags and escapes quickly.

9 Who says these things and what are they talking about?

- a "That's an interesting idea."
- b "You might want to look at these, too."
- c "They think he's crazy."
- d "Of course I know him. He's my best friend."
- e "That's where we'll find Private Ryan."

Chapter 11

10 Complete these sentences.

- a The trees on the edge of the field have bullet
- b The trail of fresh blood in the field leads to
- c Reiben and Mellish do not think it is the squad's job to
- d The group decides to try to destroy
- e When Mellish and Miller jump into a shell hole they find

Chapter 12

11 Are these statements True (T) or False (F)?

- a Wade has been shot in the back. ☐
- b Jackson is calm as usual. ☐
- c Wade feels his own wounds. ☐
- d Wade wants more drugs because he is in such pain. ☐
- e Wade shows Miller where Caparzo's letter was. ☐
- f Jackson is also badly injured. ☐

Chapter 13

12 Answer these questions.

- a Why is the village of Ramelle in ruins?
- b Why aren't the American soldiers surprised by the sound of the tank?
- c Why does the tank stop firing?
- d Why does Private Ryan think the American soldiers were crazy?
- e Why do Miller's men feel respect for Private Ryan?

Chapter 14

13 Complete these sentences.

- a There aren't enough to prevent the Germans from crossing the
- b The American soldiers plan to make a German go down the main of the village.
- c Jackson is going to fire at the Germans from the bell tower in the with a
- d Sticky bombs are made by filling with, then covering the outside with
- e Ryan and Miller take up their position in an old near to the

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Chapters 1–2

1 Are the sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a There were a lot of plants in the cemetery. ☐
- b Jimmy had already seen a number of cemeteries. ☐
- c Miller is very scared before the landing. ☐
- d Although a boat explodes, they don't see any blood. ☐
- e Some of the German obstacles will be useful to US soldiers. ☐

Chapter 3

2 Choose the correct answer.

- a Delancey
 1) helped save Miller, once he had died.
 2) refused to hold on to Miller.
 3) kept his equipment safe.
- b The Private had to scream at Miller
 1) because of the sound of the sea.
 2) because of the sound of the guns.
 3) because Miller had gone temporarily deaf.
- c The soldiers could not stay where they were
 1) because it was against their orders.
 2) because their packs were too heavy.
 3) because the sea was approaching.

Chapters 4–5

3 Match the words with their meanings.

- a sharpshooter
 b wound
 c engineer
 d trench
 e mine
 f porch
 g grief
 1) a bomb buried in the ground
 2) an expert user of a gun
 3) a hole much longer than it is wide
 4) an expert in building
 5) damage to the body
 6) an extension in the front of a house
 7) extreme sadness

Chapters 6–7

4 Complete the sentences with the correct words from the box.

bunker typewriter animals citizenship
 stripes ditch orders

- a They are told that are more important than family.

- b Upham is very attached to his
 c The Commanding officer is working from a
 d With the vehicles there were also dead
 e Ryan was rewarded for his
 f show your status in the army.
 g The jeep shook terribly when they hit a

Chapters 8–9

5 Correct the mistakes.

- a The destroyed buildings in Neuville were all modern.
 b Upham thinks it would be safer if the children came with the squad.
 c The squad understand Miller's attitude to the children.
 d Miller didn't take Carpazo's identification badge.
 e This Private Ryan has teenage brothers.

Chapters 9–10

6 Put the events in order.

- a ☐ Miller and Hamill have a heart to heart conversation.
 b ☐ Hill shouts the American code word.
 c ☐ Wade bandages Reiben's wound.
 d ☐ They see some German prisoners.
 e ☐ The Americans kill the five Germans.

Chapters 11–13

7 Complete the sentences with the name of one of the characters.

- a thinks it would be easier to kill Japanese soldiers.
 b is pleased to be on friendly terms with the doctor again.
 c would prefer to avoid taking the German position.
 d is not used in the attack on the machine gun.
 e hesitated to give pain pills to Wade.

Chapters 14–15

8 What do the underlined words mean?

- a Nobody was grinning back at him.
 b They're in the army instruction manual.
 c ... the building nearest the bridge, a former café.
 d The whole barn burned down.
 e The commander surveyed the village.