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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

**The Grammar Dog Guide to
The Red Badge
of Courage
by Stephen Crane**

**All exercises use sentences from the novel.
Includes over 250 multiple choice questions.**

About Gramwardog

Gramwardog was founded in 2001 by Mary Jane McKinney, a high school English teacher and dedicated grammarian. She and other experienced English teachers in both high school and college regard grammar and style as the key to unlocking the essence of an author.

Their philosophy, that grammar and literature are best understood when learned together, led to the formation of Gramwardog.com, a means of sharing knowledge about the structure and patterns of language unique to specific authors. These patterns are what make a great book *a great book*. The arduous task of analyzing works for grammar and style has yielded a unique product, guaranteed to enlighten the reader of literary classics.

Gramwardog's strategy is to put the author's words under the microscope. The result yields an increased appreciation of the art of writing and awareness of the importance and power of language.



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THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE by Stephen Crane – Grammar and Style
All exercises use sentences from the novel.

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SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE by Stephen Crane

EXERCISE 5 COMPLEMENTS

Identify the complements in each of the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

d.o. = direct object p.n. = predicate nominative
p.a. = predicate adjective o.p. = object of preposition

- ___1. He adopted the important air of a herald in red and gold.
- ___2. The only foes he had seen were some pickets along the river bank.
- ___3. Various veterans had told him tales.

EXERCISE 6 PHRASES

Identify the phrases in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

par = participle *infin.* = infinitive *ger* = gerund *appos* = appositive
prep = prepositional

- ___1. As the landscape changed from brown to green, the army awakened, and began to tremble with eagerness at the noise of rumors.
- ___2. He came flying back from a brook waving his garment bannerlike.
- ___3. From his home his youthful eyes had looked upon the war in his own country with distrust.

EXERCISE 9 STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Identify the figurative language in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

p = personification *s* = simile *m* = metaphor *o* = onomatopoeia

- ___1. They mouthed rumors that had flown like birds out of the unknown.
- ___2. Tents sprang up like strange plants.
- ___3. Camp fires, like red, peculiar blossoms, dotted the night.

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EXERCISE 12 ALLUSIONS

Identify the type of allusion or symbol in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:
a. historical b. mythological c. religious d. literary e. folklore/superstition

- ___1. He had long despaired of witnessing a Greeklike struggle.

- ___2. Tales of great movements shook the land. They might not be distinctly Homeric, but there seemed to be much glory in them.

- ___3. He had fought like a pagan who defends his religion.

EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning. (From Chapter V)

The guns squatted in a row like savage chiefs. They argued with abrupt violence. It was a grim pow-wow. Their busy servants ran hither and thither.

A small procession of wounded men were going drearily toward the rear. It was a flow of blood from the torn body of the brigade.

To the right and to the left were the dark lines of other troops. Far in front he thought he could see lighter masses protruding in points from the forest. They were suggestive of unnumbered thousands.

Once he saw a tiny battery go dashing along the line of the horizon. The tiny riders were beating the tiny horses.

From a sloping hill came the sound of cheerings and clashes. Smoke welled slowly through the leaves.

Batteries were speaking with thunderous oratorical effort. Here and there were flags, the red in the stripes dominating. They splashed bits of warm color upon the dark lines of troops.

The youth felt the old thrill at the sight of the emblems. They were like beautiful birds strangely undaunted in a storm.

As he listened to the din from the hillside, to a deep pulsating thunder that came from afar to the left, and to the lesser clamors which came from many directions, it occurred to him that they were fighting, too, over there, and over there, and over there. Heretofore he had supposed that all the battle was directly under his nose.

As he gazed around him the youth felt a flash of astonishment at the blue, pure sky and the sun gleaming on the trees and fields. It was surprising that Nature had gone tranquilly on with her golden process in the midst of so much devilment.

Read the passage a second time, marking figurative language, sensory imagery, poetic devices, and any other patterns of diction and rhetoric, then answer the questions below.

- 1 The guns squatted in a row like savage chiefs. They argued with abrupt violence. It was a grim
- 2 pow-wow. Their busy servants ran hither and thither.
- 3 A small procession of wounded men were going drearily toward the rear. It was a flow of blood from
- 4 the torn body of the brigade.
- 5 To the right and to the left were the dark lines of other troops. Far in front he thought he could see

SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE by Stephen Crane

6 lighter masses protruding in points from the forest. They were suggestive of unnumbered thousands.

7 Once he saw a fine battery go dashing along the line of the horizon. The tiny riders were beating the

8 tiny horses.

9 From a sloping hill came the sound of cheerings and clashes. Smoke welled slowly through the leaves.

10 Batteries were speaking with thunderous oratorical effort. Here and there flags, the red in the stripes

11 dominating. They splashed bits of warm color upon the dark lines of troops.

12 The youth felt the old thrill at the sight of the emblems. They were like beautiful birds strangely

13 undaunted in a storm.

14 As he listened to the din from the hillside, to a deep pulsating thunder that came from afar to the left,

15 and to the lesser clamors which came from many directions, it occurred to him they were fighting, too,

16 over there, and over there, and over there. Heretofore he had supposed that all the battle was

17 directly under his nose.

18 As he gazed around him the youth felt a flash of astonishment at the blue, pure sky and the sun

19 gleaming on the trees and fields. It was surprising that Nature had gone tranquilly on with her

20 golden process in the midst of so much devilment.

_____ 1. The underlined words in Line 2 are examples of . . .
a. assonance b. rhyme c. alliteration

_____ 2. Line 1 contains an example of . . .
a. metaphor and personification
b. simile and metaphor
c. personification and simile

_____ 3. All of the following descriptions are parallel in meaning EXCEPT . . .
a. *a grim pow-wow* (Line 2)
b. *pulsating thunder* (Line 14)
c. *golden process* (Line 20)
d. *undaunted in a storm* (Line 13)