OVERVIEW AND ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

The materials in this unit plan are meant to be flexible and easy to adapt to your own classroom. Each chapter has discussion questions provided in a later section.

Through reading the book and completing any of the suggested activities, students can achieve any number of the following understandings:

- War is an experience that often makes no logical sense.
- There is a huge divide between those who have experienced war and those who have not.
- The human mind is resilient and will attempt to overcome even the most intense traumas.

Students should be introduced to the following key questions as they begin reading. They can be discussed both in universal terms and in relation to specific characters in the book:

**Universal**

- What are the different ways humans deal with violence and death?
- How do we decide what's right in times of war?
- How can the experiences of war be shared with those who don't experience it themselves?

**Book-Specific**

- What was each character's strategy for dealing with the death and violence they witness?
- How do the characters decide what "the right thing" to do was during the war?
- How does Bartle tell his story to the reader? (How did the author choose to compose the novel?)

Many of the reader response questions and suggested projects relate to these essential questions, and they can be looped back to frequently.