

*ADAM enters, interrupting MR. WALKER's lecture.  
He walks back to his seat*

ADAM:

Sorry. Hey guys, what'd I miss? Why's Jed have that stupid grin on his face?

JED:

Just excited about prom.

ADAM:

Shit, are we still gonna talk about that tonight?

PERCY:

Yeah, we have a lot of things we've gotta figure out.

ADAM:

You're telling me, we still have to trick some poor person into going to prom with Jed.

*JED and PERCY share a look and stifle a laugh*

What?

MR. WALKER:

Is there something you boys would like to share with the class?

PERCY:

Nope.

ADAM:

Nuh-uh.

JED:

Actually, since you asked, can I go to the bathroom?

MR. WALKER (Sighing, To the class):

You all are aware that you can go to the bathroom *in between* classes, correct?

*Some nods here and there, a couple of hardly  
audible yes' are heard*

JED:

Soooooooo?

MR. WALKER (Reluctantly):

Go. And make it quick.

*JED hops up and rushes out of the room before MR. WALKER can change his mind*

ADAM:

That kid has a bladder the size of a cashew.

PERCY:

Isn't the saying usually a pea?

ADAM:

Sure, but it's funnier to make fun of his nuts using nuts, isn't it?

PERCY:

Or you could make fun of his pee with a pea?

*Quiet contemplation, though a decision isn't reached. Another of life's great mysteries. The two finally begin to pay attention to MR. WALKER's lecture*

MR. WALKER:

Now, it's an interesting thing to consider how little of the book actually takes place on and describes the battlefield. What do you think that means?

STUDENT 1:

The author wrote a boring book.

*MR. WALKER ignores this answer*

STUDENT 2:

Does it mean that the war is an afterthought to the narrator?

MR. WALKER:

Not quite, but you're on the right track.

PERCY:

It means that the narrator thinks the most important thing to tell us is the way that he feels and thinks. He doesn't want us to fall into the trap of only caring about the war in the same way that he thinks the Kaiser and other world leaders care about.

MR. WALKER:

Very good Mr. Holmes. The narrator is so focused on the time that he spends outside of the war because-

*A gunshot is heard, however it is faint, quiet, almost imperceptible. MR. WALKER pauses, but convinces himself that he must have imagined it*

Because that time is where he is able to be himself, or at least as much of himself as he can be. That time-

*A second gunshot, this one significantly louder. MR. WALKER pauses again, and this time a general sense of unease spreads through the class.*

STUDENT 1:

Mr. Walker, what was that?

MR. WALKER

I'm not sure.

*MR. WALKER walks over to the door, and just as he's about to open it, a third gunshot rings out. This time it is unmistakable and panic spreads like wildfire*

Everyone stay calm. We need to stay calm, and quiet. Under your desks, now!

*The students, normally so combative and independent, rush to follow MR. WALKER's orders, silent tears streaming down their face, a sob or two escaping before being immediately stifled. Bullets continue to be heard outside of the classroom, are*

*they getting closer? PERCY and ADAM hide under their desks. They look at each other... through an empty desk.*

ADAM:

Jed.

PERCY:

Oh God.

ADAM:

Percy, what do we do?

*PERCY stands*

Percy, what are you doing?

*PERCY runs to the front of the room, ADAM can't stop him*

Percy!

*MR. WALKER tries to tackle PERCY but he too misses. Another gunshot, deafeningly loud, almost certainly right outside the door. But PERCY is determined. He gets to the door, but before he can open it, it is kicked in. Everyone screams. BLACKOUT*