



Reading Purpose: To analyze details Rinehart uses to describe her experience.

A question I have about the text:

Rinehart says that "Nothing that they have said can be too strong" about the conditions of the trenches. What does she mean by this phrase and what details support this point of view?

SEARCHING FOR DETAILS

I read the text closely and mark words and phrases that help me answer my question.

SELECTING DETAILS

I select words or phrases from my search that I think are the most important for answering my question.

Detail 1 (Ref.: paragraph 2)
description of "tiny houses into which the men crawled from the rear" where it was "impossible to stand up"

Detail 2 (Ref.: paragraphs 7 and 11)
description of "man warming his hands over a tiny fire kindled in a tin pail" to deal with "penetrating cold" that could "chill the very blood in a man's body"

Detail 3 (Ref.: lines 51-52)
description of horrible "odour of that beautiful lagoon" that was filled with dead soldiers

ANALYZING DETAILS

I re-read parts of the text and think about the meaning of the details and what they tell me about my question.

What I think about detail 1:
The men had to live lying down in places that barely protected them.

What I think about detail 2:
It was extremely cold and the men had absurdly little to keep themselves warm.

What I think about detail 3:
It smelled incredibly bad because they were right next to a lagoon filled with rotting dead people.

CONNECTING DETAILS

I compare the details and explain the connections I see among them.

How I connect the details:

There was no way to exaggerate how horrible the trench conditions were. Rinehart emphasizes this by describing how they had to live in extreme cold, next to horrific smells, and protected from cold and danger in places where they had to lie in the mud unable to even stand up. I can't imagine a place so bad.