

The Complexity of Language

from *The Red Badge of Courage*

Chapter I

The cold passed reluctantly from the earth, and the retiring fogs revealed an army stretched out on the hills, resting. As the landscape changed from brown to green, the army awakened, and began to tremble with eagerness at the noise of rumors. It cast its eyes upon the roads, which were growing from long troughs of liquid mud to proper thoroughfares. A river, amber-tinted in the shadow of its banks, purred at the army's feet; and at night, when the stream had become of a sorrowful blackness, one could see across it the red, eyelike gleam of hostile campfires set in the low brows of distant hills. 10

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1. The cold passed.
2. The passing was reluctant.
3. The passing was from the earth.
4. The fogs revealed an army.
5. The fogs were retiring.
6. The army was stretched out.
7. The army was on the hills
8. The army was resting.

9. The army awakened.
10. The army began to tremble.
11. The trembling was with eagerness.
12. The eagerness was at the noise.
13. The noise was of rumors.
14. The landscape changed.
15. The changing was from brown to green.

16. It cast its eyes. ("It" = the army)
17. The eyes were cast upon the roads.
18. The roads were growing.
19. The growing was from troughs.
20. The growing was to thoroughfares.
21. The troughs were long.
22. The troughs were of mud.
23. The mud was liquid.
24. The thoroughfares were proper.

25. A river purred.
26. The river was amber-tinted.
27. The amber-tinting was in the shadow.
28. The shadow was of the banks.
29. The banks were of the river.
30. The purling was at the feet.
31. The feet were of the army.

32. One could see the gleam.
33. The seeing was across the stream.
34. The gleam was red.
35. The gleam was eyelike.
36. The gleam was of the campfires.
37. The campfires were hostile.
38. The campfires were set.
39. The setting was in the brows.
40. The brows were low.
41. The setting was in the hills.
42. The hills were distant.
43. This was at night.
44. This was when the stream had become black.
45. The blackness was sorrowful.