

The Red Badge of Courage

Stephen Crane

Why does 'Where yeh hit?' terrify Henry when the speaker means it kindly?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The tattered man asks about Henry's wound
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Chapter VIII
START	After a time he turned to the youth. "Where yeh hit, ol' boy?"
END	he now felt that his shame could be viewed.
PASSAGE ID	sec-rbc-03

THE MOVE

Turn an innocent question into exposure through context

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The tattered soldier asks a friendly, ordinary question about Henry's wound. Because Henry has fled without being wounded, the question becomes unbearable evidence of the identity he is trying to conceal.

MARK

Underline the tattered man's question and any sign that he intends kindness. Circle Henry's physical or emotional reaction. Star the point where a harmless question becomes an accusation in Henry's mind.

NOTICE

- What does the tattered man think he is asking?
- What does Henry hear because of what he knows about himself?
- How can context turn the same sentence from concern into exposure?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does 'Where yeh hit?' terrify Henry when the speaker means it kindly? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does 'Where yeh hit?' terrify Henry when the speaker means it kindly? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	The question terrifies Henry because he has no wound and therefore no physical evidence of courage. A friendly inquiry becomes exposure when filtered through his secret shame.
EVIDENCE	Use the tattered man's kindly intention and Henry's reaction to the wound question.
WATCH FOR	Do not say the speaker is accusing Henry. The accusatory meaning exists in Henry's context, not the speaker's purpose.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

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START ANCHOR	After a time he turned to the youth. “Where yeh hit, ol’ boy?”
END ANCHOR	he now felt that his shame could be viewed.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Underline the tattered man’s question and any sign that he intends kindness. Circle Henry’s physical or emotional reaction. Star the point where a harmless question becomes an accusation in Henry’s mind.
2. NOTICE - What does the tattered man think he is asking? What does Henry hear because of what he knows about himself? How can context turn the same sentence from concern into exposure?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why does 'Where yeh hit?' terrify Henry when the speaker means it kindly?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.