

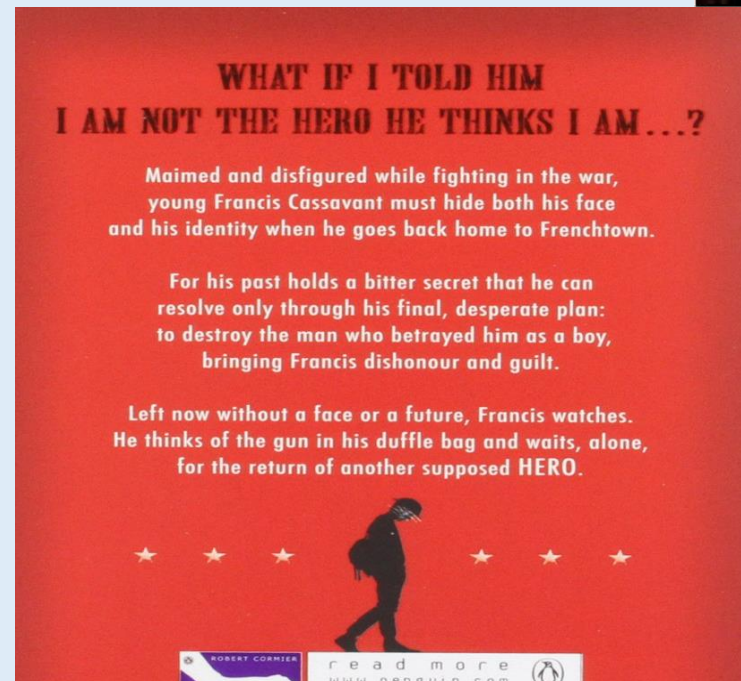
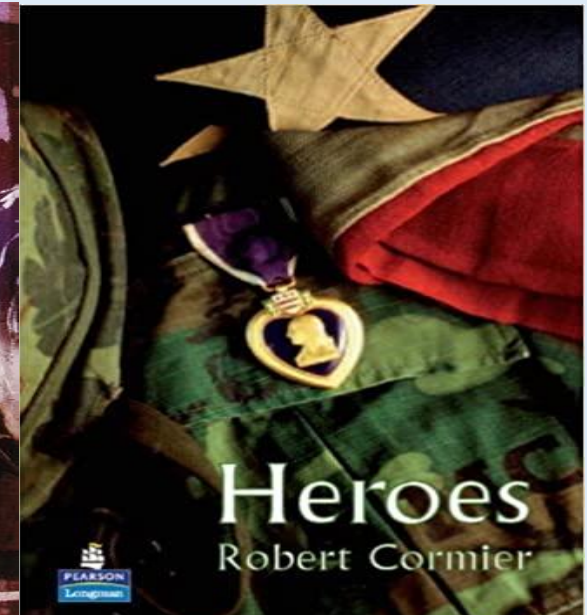
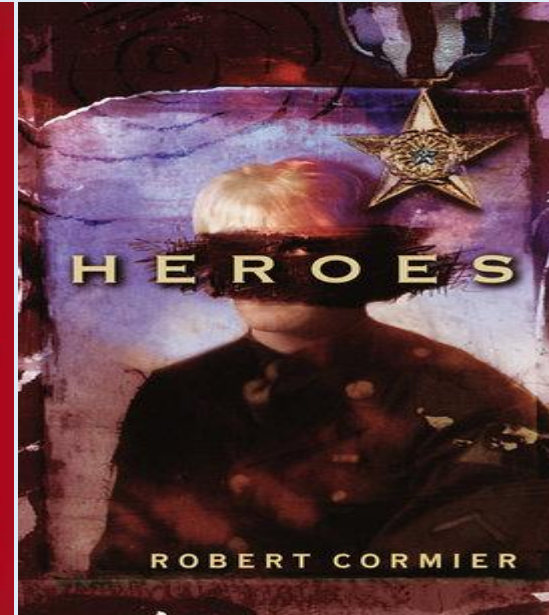
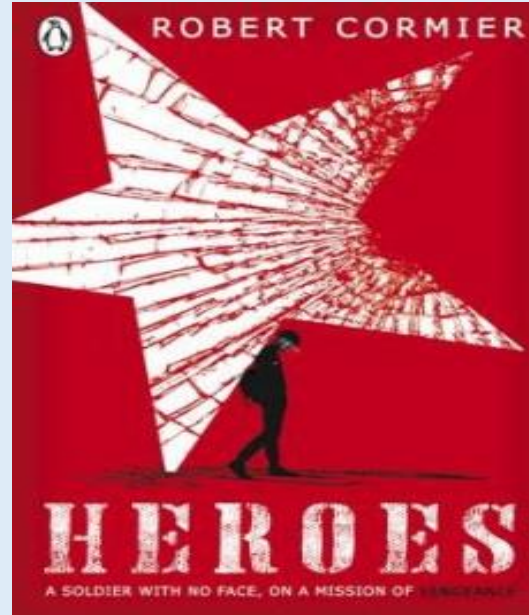
Do Now

What do you think this story will be about?

1. Look at the title.
2. Now look at the three front covers.
3. Finally, look at the back cover.

Monday 28th November 2022

Title: Heroes.



Now put the date and title in your book.
Don't forget to underline.

Monday 28th November 2022

Heroes

In pairs discuss the following questions: taking a closer look...

Can you tell anything about where he may be from because of his name?

'My name is Francis Joseph Cassavant and I have just returned to Frenchtown in Monument and the war is over and I have no face.'

Where could this be?

What could have happened to him?

S-T-R-E-T-C-H:

What narrative voice is this written in? How can you tell?

Heroes was published in 1998. Robert Cormier said that he was inspired to write the book by the 50th anniversary celebrations of the D-Day landings of World War II, and the desire to recognise the heroic acts of ordinary people.

Background

Robert Cormier (1925-2000) was an American novelist, best known for his many young adult novels, the most famous one being *The Chocolate War*. He was born and brought up in Leominster in Massachusetts, in the French-Canadian section of the town called French Hill. It is this place which is loosely fictionalised in *Heroes* as Frenchtown.

He was in his last years at high school when the USA joined the war – making him roughly the same age as Francis Cassavant in the novel. Cormier had poor eyesight though, and so could not join the army. He studied and worked instead.

Pearl Harbor

The United States were brought into the Second World War as a result of the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese on December 7th, 1941. It was a surprise attack by the Japanese on an important US naval base. Pearl Harbor is on one of the islands of Hawaii, which is part of the USA. Many US battleships and aircraft were destroyed, and over 2,000 people were killed.

The attack made public opinion in the USA switch overnight to pro-war patriotism. Unlike in Europe there was no conscription, but many Americans volunteered to go and fight overseas.



The attack on the US naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Context

Now list **four facts** about the writer, Robert Cormier.

You have **5 minutes!**

Read pages 1 -10. In Pairs answer the following in full sentences.

1. **What impression do you get about Francis? (Your own *original* opinions)**
2. **Why do you think so many physical details are mentioned on the first page?**
3. **What is the effect of first person narrative (Clue: how does it make *you* feel)?**

S-T-R-E-T-C-H:

Even though Francis has survived the war, what conflict could he still be experiencing?

Extension: Explain the effect of the following quotation

“Anyway, this gives you an idea of what I look like when I walk down the street. People glance at me in surprise and look away quickly or cross the street when they see me coming.

I don’t blame them.”

Explain the **effect** of the following quotation

“Anyway, this gives you an idea of what I look like when I walk down the street. People glance at me in surprise and look away quickly or cross the street when they see me coming.

I don’t blame them.”

Independent Work

“I am not a hero, of course, and I turn away in disgust.”

- Francis has low self-esteem
- Why doesn't he believe he is a hero?
- Why does he say “of course”?

Self Assessment

I can look at specific words in a quote and make inferences.

I can give a detailed explanation of the overall effect of a quote by making more than one inference.

I can draw together more than one inference from a quote to clearly explain more than one effect on an intended reader.

Read the descriptions above and write a WWW and EBI for your work today.