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| *Lord of the Nutcracker Men, 1 3-8 cha* |
| Historical Fiction | A book of history gives only the facts about an event in the past. A book of fiction tells a story imagined by the author. A book of historical fiction tells an imagined story surrounded by many accurate details from a moment of history.  |
| London,Great Britain  | London is the capital city of Great Britain. In 1914, seven million people lived there. It was the largest city in the world in 1914, capital of the largest empire. |
| Kaiser Wilhelm II | *Kaiser* means *king* in German. Kaiser Wilhelm II came to power in 1888. He was a hot-headed, selfish, unthinking ruler who led his country into war. |
| Germans in Britain | Before 1914, many Germans migrated to Britain seeking better opportunities. The British kings and queens were married to German kings and queens. The two countries shared similar languages, religions, traditions, and cultures.  |
| Tommies | British soldiers were called Tommies as a sort of nickname. German soldiers would call out, “Hey, Tommy!” and “Die Tommies kommen!” |
| Fritz | British soldiers called the German army Fritz, as if it were one man. “Here comes Fritz,” meant, “The German soldiers are coming.”  |
| The Hun | The German army was called the Hun, or the Huns. The original Huns were a tribe of warriors in ancient history; they were famous for violence. |
| Zeppelin  | A zeppelin is a blimp, a giant thin-skinned container of hydrogen gas. It floats like a balloon, and it can be steered with propellers. A zeppelin is the size of two football fields; it can travel as fast as a car on a highway. Germany used zeppelins to fly over the English Channel and drop explosives on London. |
| Cliffe | Cliffe is a tiny village in southeast Britain. Only 1000 people live there in 2015. It is very remote, isolated, windswept, and quiet.  |
| A Scottish Highlander | Johnny meets a Highlander, a British soldier from Scotland. He would have worn the Highlander uniform, an army jacket and traditional dark green kilt. |
| Military Rank | General: in charge of 300,000 soldiers. Lieutenant: in charge of 50 soldiers. Sergeant: helps lieutenant. Private: an ordinary soldier |
| Guy Fawkes Day | On November 5, 1605, Guy Fawkes set gunpowder in a royal building to kill the king. He was caught, and bonfires were lit around the city to celebrate. British people still light bonfires on November 5 and burn a straw man, Guy Fawkes. |
| Shells | A shell was a two-foot long, eighteen-pound container packed with explosives and pieces of metal. Shells were fired from a huge artillery gun, like a cannon. |
| Telegraph | An electrical signal, a click, is sent along wires. Each set of clicks represents a letter, in Morse code. Short messages in the click code could be sent at great speed, then clerks would decode the clicks and write down the message. |
| No-Man’s-Land | Between the trench line of the Germans and the trench line of the British and French was often an empty field, too dangerous to cross. Neither side controlled it, so it was called no-man’s-land. Armies attacked across no-man’s-land. |
| Ypres, Belgium | The German army rolled through Belgium on its way to France. It was stopped in the north Belgian town of Ypres. (hard to pronounce: it’s *Eep*.) Huge battles were fought in Ypres in 1914, 1917, and 1918. The town was destroyed. |
| Homer and the *Iliad* | Homer was a poet in ancient Greece, 2800 years ago. He wrote the historical fiction poem about of the Greeks’ battle with Troy, or Ilium, called the *Iliad*. Homer also wrote the story of Odysseus’s return to Greece, the *Odyssey*. |
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| Pretend you are writing a book of fiction. Make up a sentence from that book. |
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| London, August1, 1914. Imagine a conversation between the German butcher Fatty Dienst and his wife. |
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| Write an advertisement for a holiday in the village of Cliffe. |
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| If Johnny and his Mum saw a *zeppelin* flying over London, they would have different reactions. |
| Johnny would probably say: |  |
| Mrs. Briggs would say: |  |
| Write a cheerful letter home from the trenches. Include a description of no-man’s-land, but don’t give your family reason to worry. | Write in your journal about your life in the trenches. Include a description of no-man’s-land, and express your true feelings. |
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| Ypres in July 1914 was a charming little town in northern Belgium. Describe market day in Ypres. |
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| Ypres in December 1918 was completely destroyed. Describe what you see and feel when you see it. |
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| In the *Iliad*, Homer describes the line of Greeks:Like the close-set stones in the high wall of a house, fitted tightly to defend it from the wind’s power, so their helmets and shields were ranked, shield to shield, helmet to helmet, man by man, so tightly packed.   | Describe the line of Tommies in the trenches: |
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