

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



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## ***“Keenan’s Charge” versus The Red Badge of Courage***

The subject of both Chapter 23 of *The Red Badge of Courage* and the poem “Keenan’s Charge” is a battle charge. How does each author describe the event? How do these descriptions reflect the intentions of each author?

<b>How does the author describe:</b>	<b>Evidence from the text of “Keenan’s Charge”</b>	<b>Evidence from the text of Chapter 23 of <i>The Red Badge of Courage</i></b>
The enemy?		
The strategic situation?		
The tools of battle?		
The charge?		
The officers?		
The attitude of the soldier or soldiers to the charge?		
The mindset of the soldiers during the charge?		
How the soldiers are commended for the victory?		

Now, answer the following questions for each work with support from the text whenever possible.

1. In “Keenan’s Charge,” why do the soldiers charge?

In Chapter 23, why do the men “scamper?”

2. In “Keenan’s Charge,” do the men discover courage or is it assumed to be inherent?

In Chapter 23, do the men “discover courage” or is it assumed to be inherent?

3. In “Keenan’s Charge,” are the specific actions of any man or men described? In what way?

In Chapter 23, are the specific actions of any man or men described? In what way?

4. For “Keenan’s Charge,” can you state unequivocally the author’s values? If yes, then what are his values?

In Chapter 23, can you state unequivocally Crane’s values? If yes, then what are his values?

5. Is it fair to say that the purpose of the author of “Keenan’s Charge” is to demonstrate values he probably held before he wrote the poem?

Is it fair to say that Crane’s purpose in *The Red Badge of Courage* was to demonstrate a process? To muse on the nature of courage and its development in one individual?

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# ***Is The Red Badge of Courage Cowardly and Unpatriotic?***

Does a close reading of Crane’s text support or contradict General Alexander C. McClurg’s accusations?

McClurg's Accusations:	Is McClurg’s accusation (S)upported or (C)ontradicted by evidence from the specified page?
1. The hero of the book (if such he can be called ‘the youth’ the author styles him) is an ignorant and stupid country lad . . .	
2. (Henry is) without a spark of patriotic feeling...	
3. (Henry is) without soldierly ambition.	
4. (Henry) has enlisted in the army from no definite motive that the reader can discover.	
5. Under the influence of mere excitement, for he does not even appear to be frightened, he first rushes madly to the rear in a crazy panic.	
6. Under the influence of mere excitement, for he does not even appear to be frightened . . . (he) afterwards plunges forward to the rescue of the colors under exactly the same influences.	
7. (Neither) reason (n)or any intelligent motive (have) any influence on his action.	
8. No thrill of patriotic devotion to cause or country ever moves his breast . . .	
9. No . . . emotion of manly courage (ever moves his breast).	
10. Even a wound which he finally gets comes from a comrade who strikes him on the head with his musket to get rid of him; and this is the only ‘Red Badge of Courage’ which we discover in the book.	