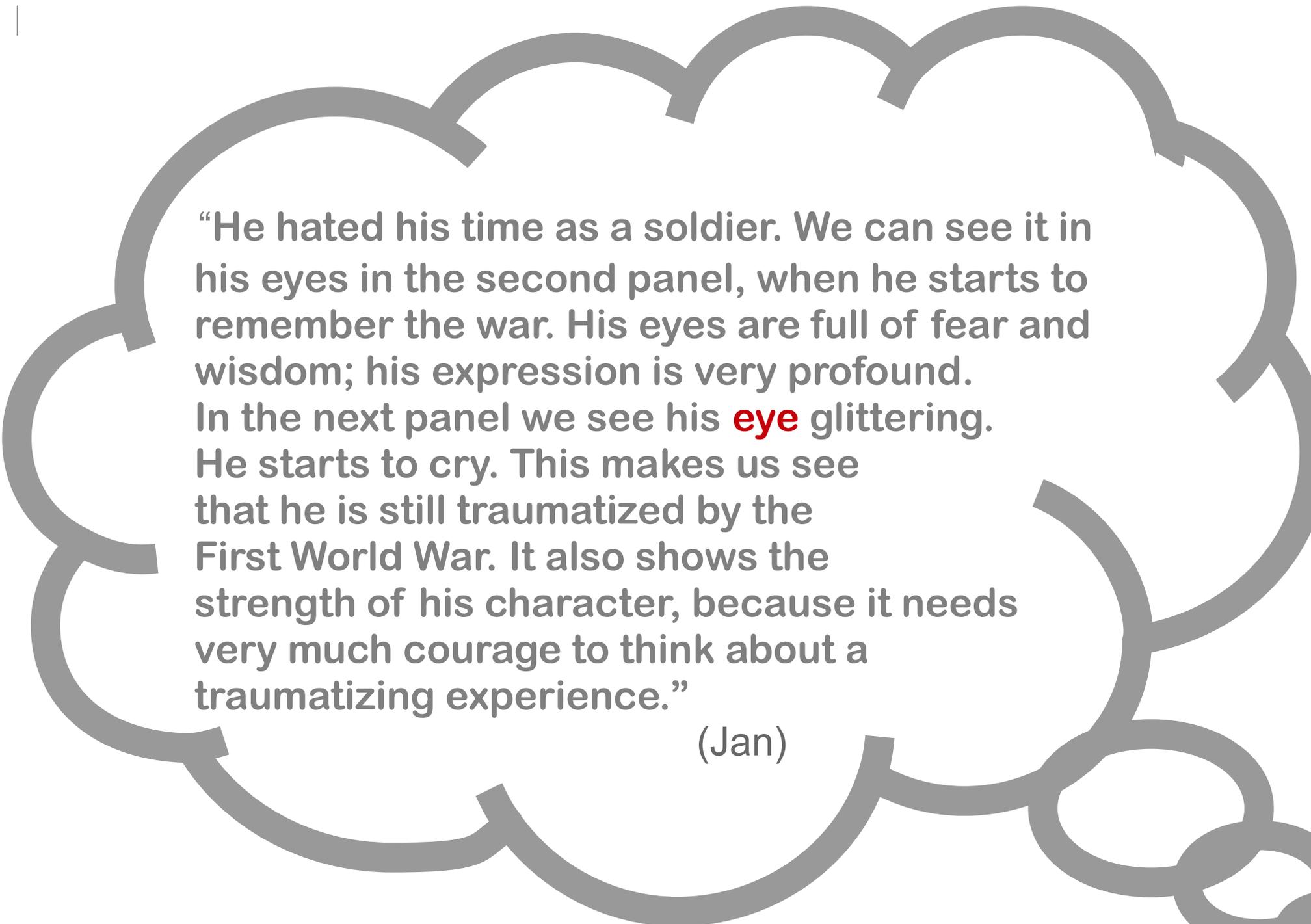


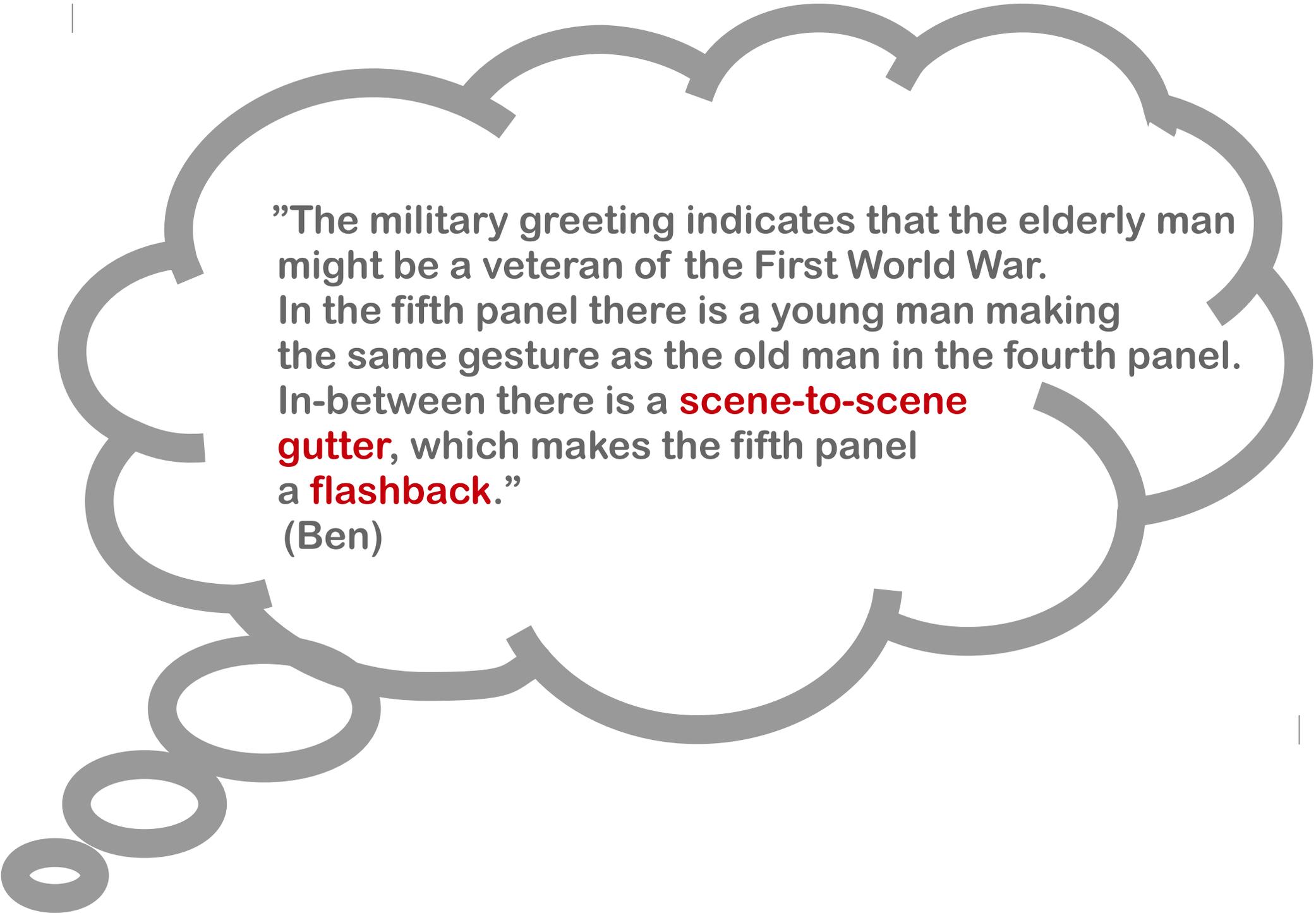


”The first panel shows a fairly large group of people standing around a memorial. The memorial is there for us to remember the soldiers who fought and died in the First World War. The elderly man on the left wears a **red poppy**. He looks sad and due to the wrinkles on his forehead he seems to be thinking of something meaningful.”
(Ben)



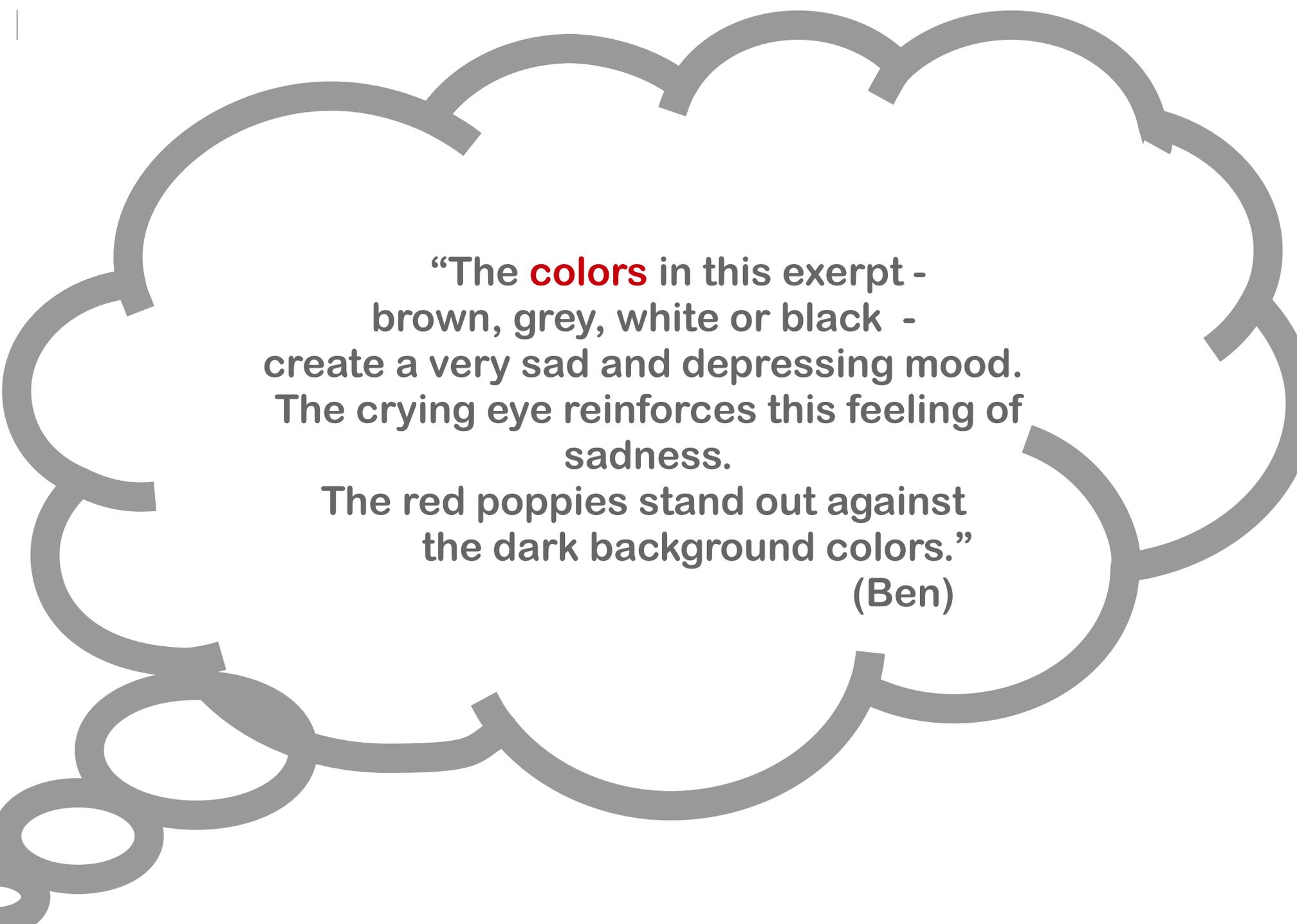
“He hated his time as a soldier. We can see it in his eyes in the second panel, when he starts to remember the war. His eyes are full of fear and wisdom; his expression is very profound. In the next panel we see his **eye** glittering. He starts to cry. This makes us see that he is still traumatized by the First World War. It also shows the strength of his character, because it needs very much courage to think about a traumatizing experience.”

(Jan)



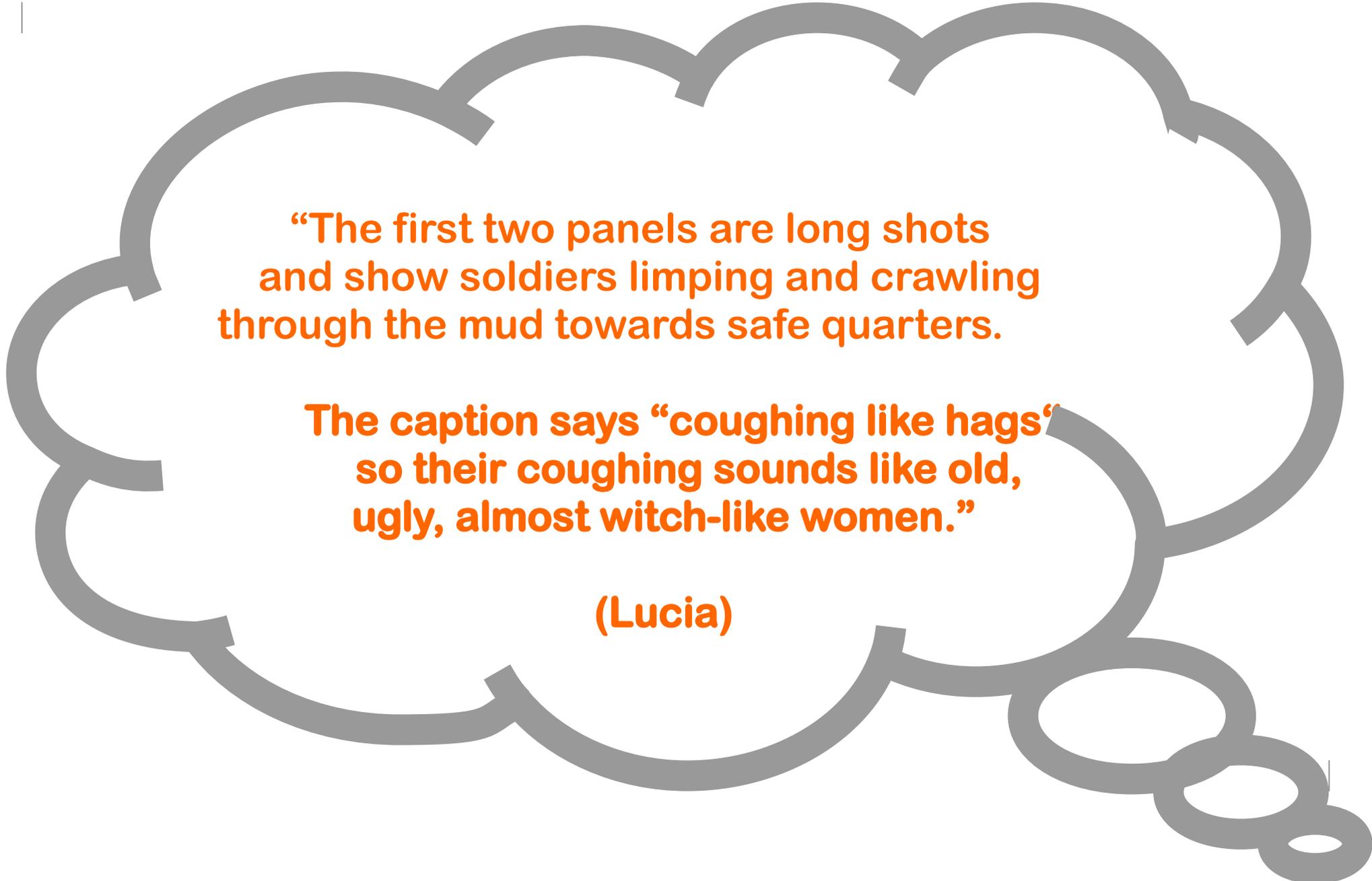
”The military greeting indicates that the elderly man might be a veteran of the First World War. In the fifth panel there is a young man making the same gesture as the old man in the fourth panel. In-between there is a **scene-to-scene gutter**, which makes the fifth panel a **flashback**.”

(Ben)



“The **colors** in this excerpt -
brown, grey, white or black -
create a very sad and depressing mood.
The crying eye reinforces this feeling of
sadness.

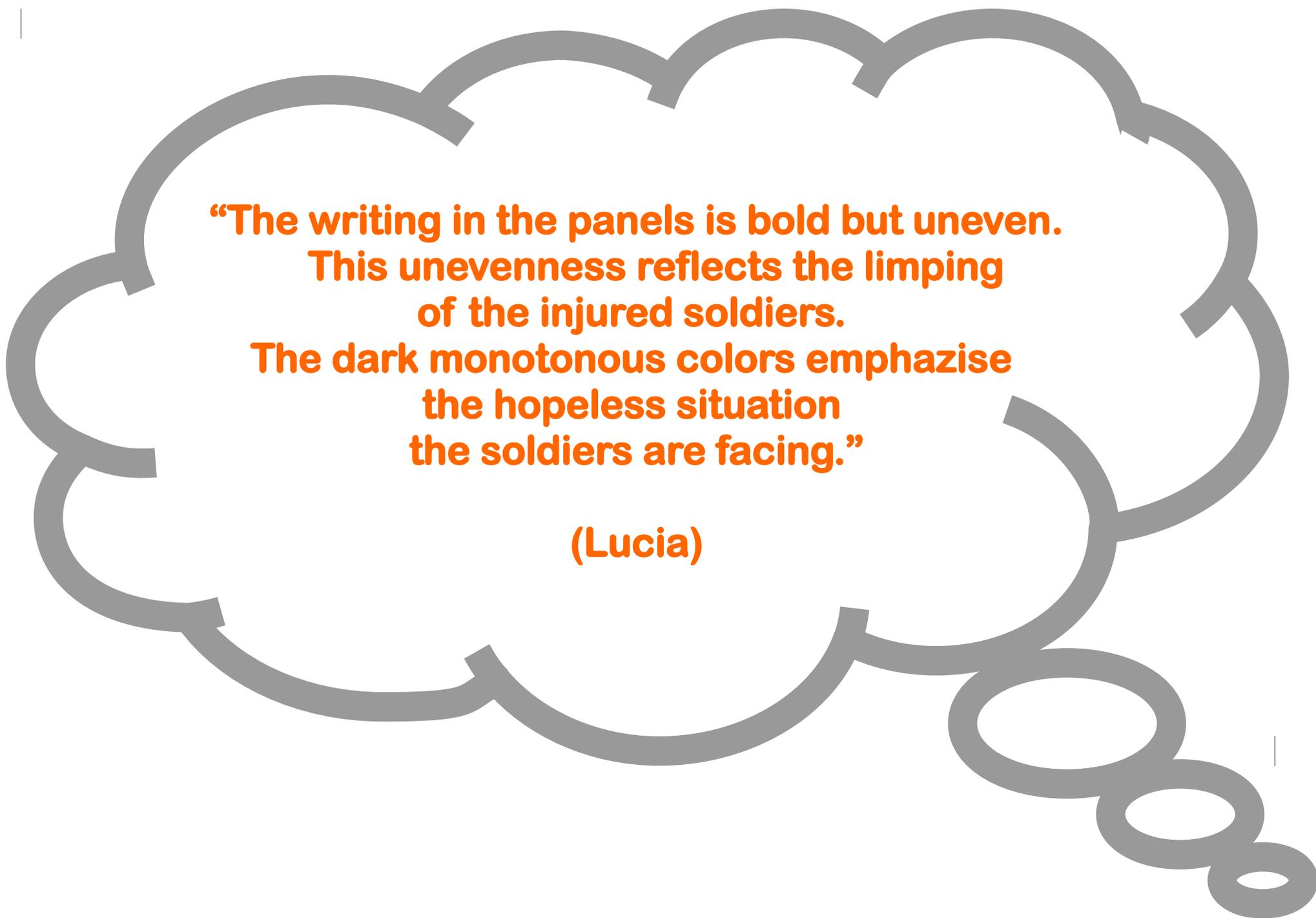
The red poppies stand out against
the dark background colors.”
(Ben)



**“The first two panels are long shots
and show soldiers limping and crawling
through the mud towards safe quarters.**

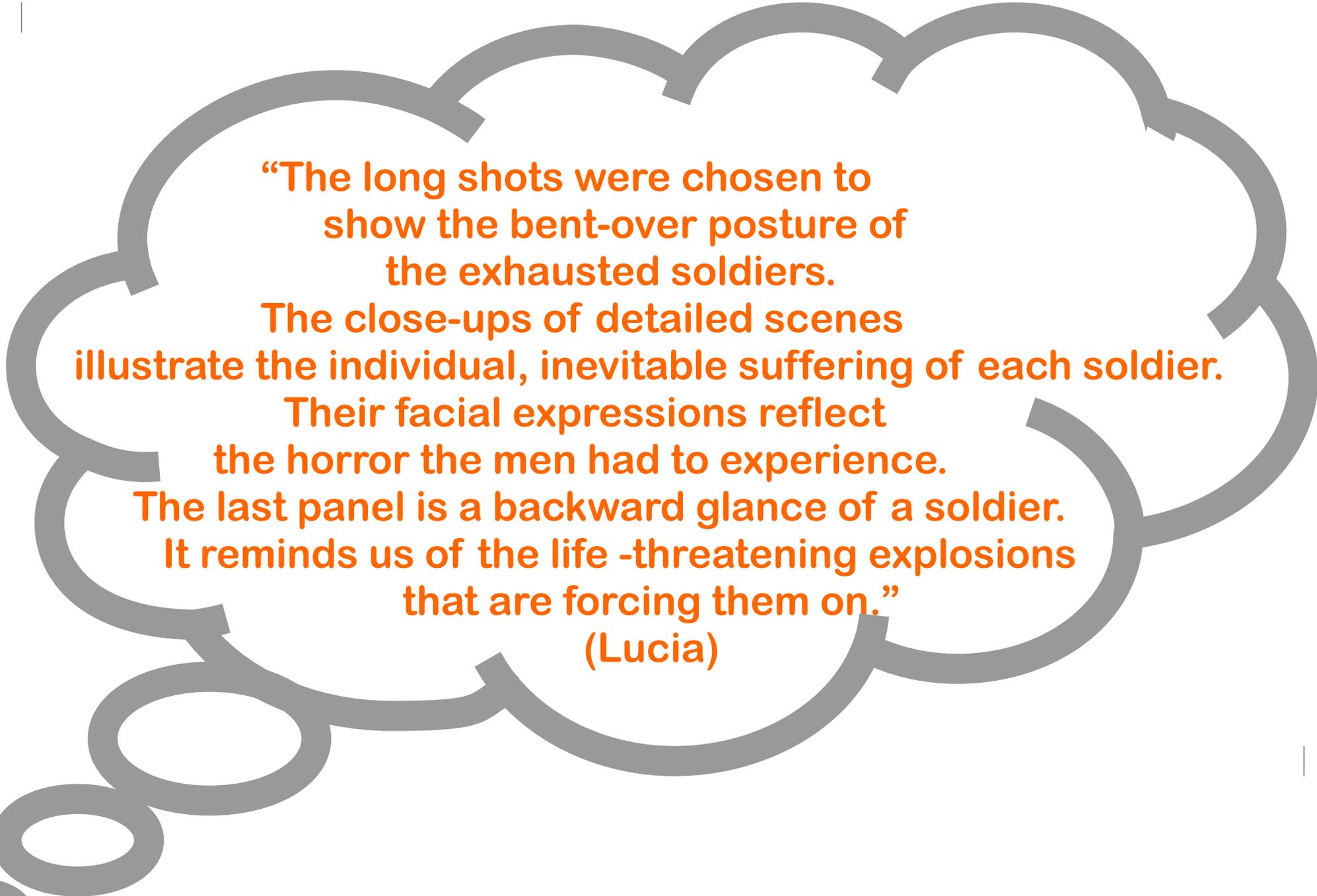
**The caption says “coughing like hags”
so their coughing sounds like old,
ugly, almost witch-like women.”**

(Lucia)



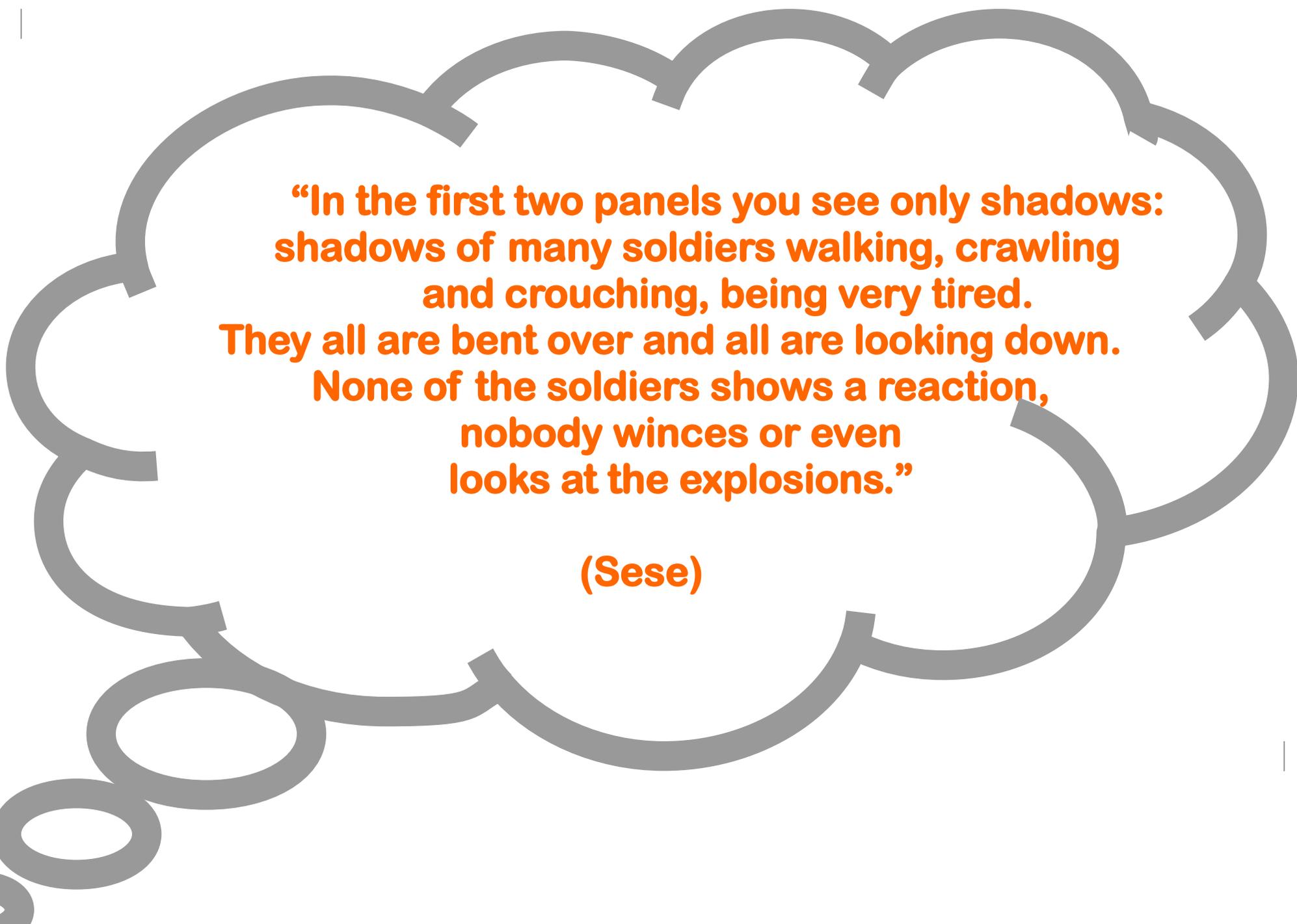
**“The writing in the panels is bold but uneven.
This unevenness reflects the limping
of the injured soldiers.
The dark monotonous colors emphasize
the hopeless situation
the soldiers are facing.”**

(Lucia)



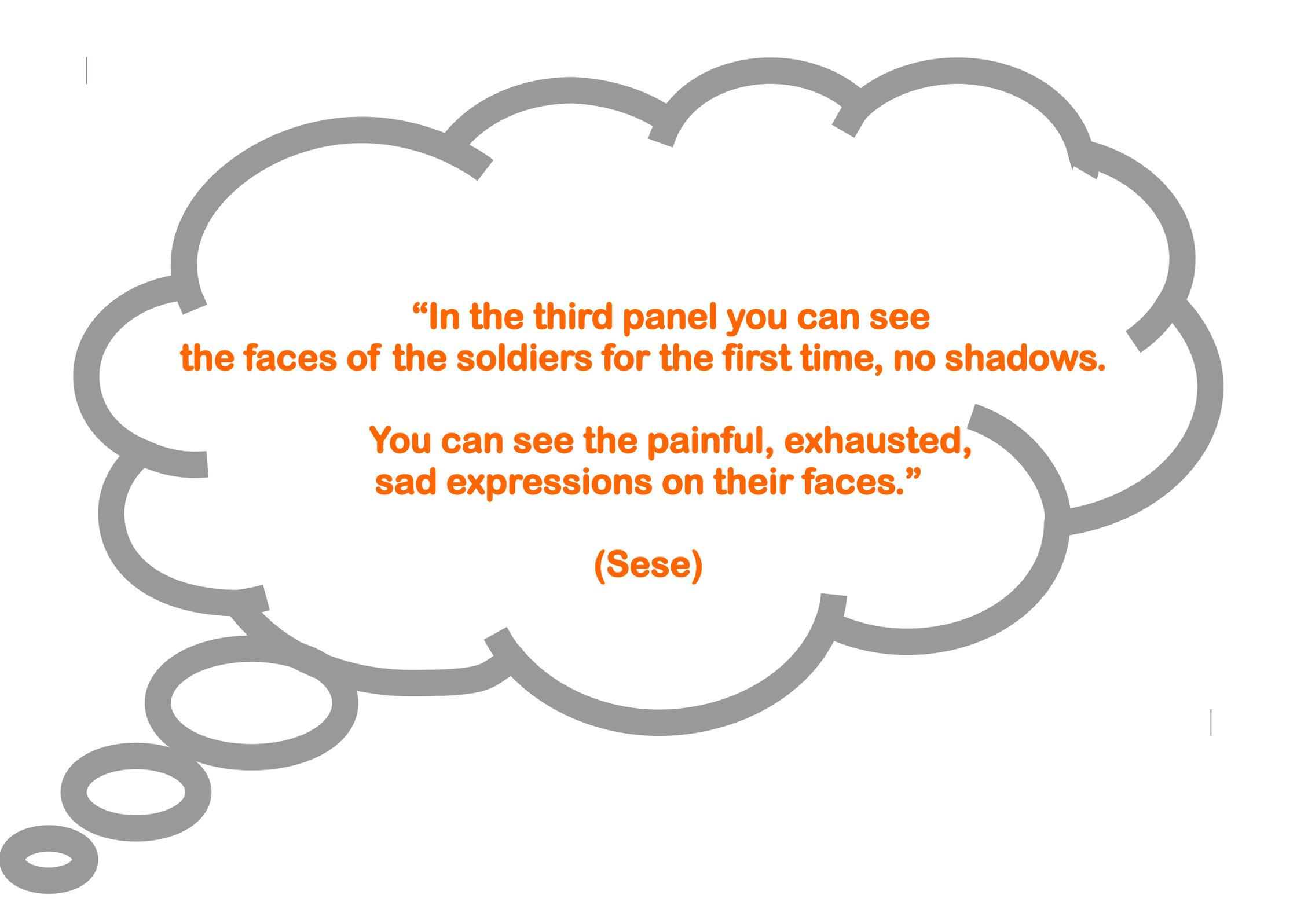
“The long shots were chosen to show the bent-over posture of the exhausted soldiers. The close-ups of detailed scenes illustrate the individual, inevitable suffering of each soldier. Their facial expressions reflect the horror the men had to experience. The last panel is a backward glance of a soldier. It reminds us of the life-threatening explosions that are forcing them on.”

(Lucia)



**“In the first two panels you see only shadows:
shadows of many soldiers walking, crawling
and crouching, being very tired.
They all are bent over and all are looking down.
None of the soldiers shows a reaction,
nobody winces or even
looks at the explosions.”**

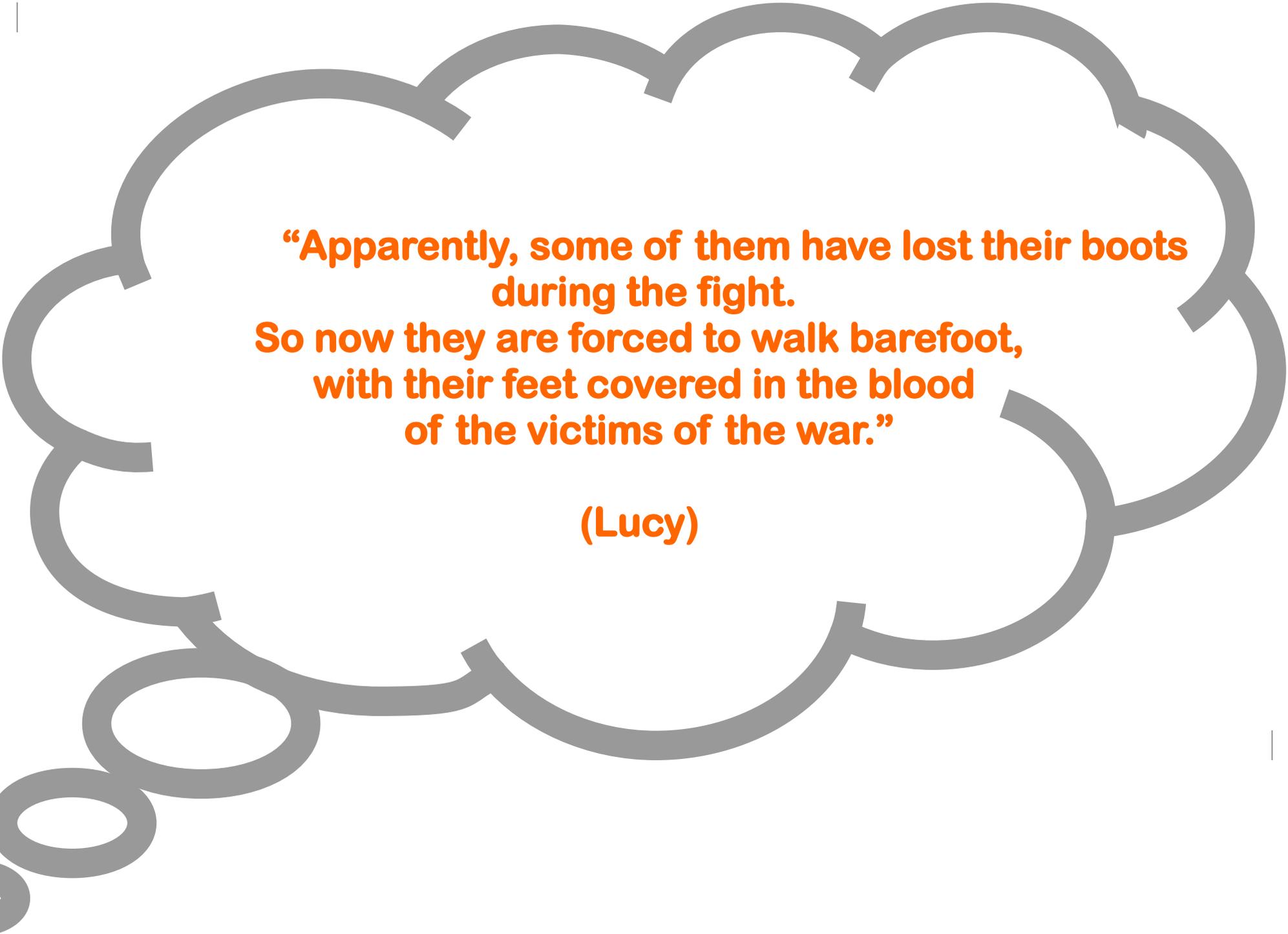
(Sese)



**“In the third panel you can see
the faces of the soldiers for the first time, no shadows.**

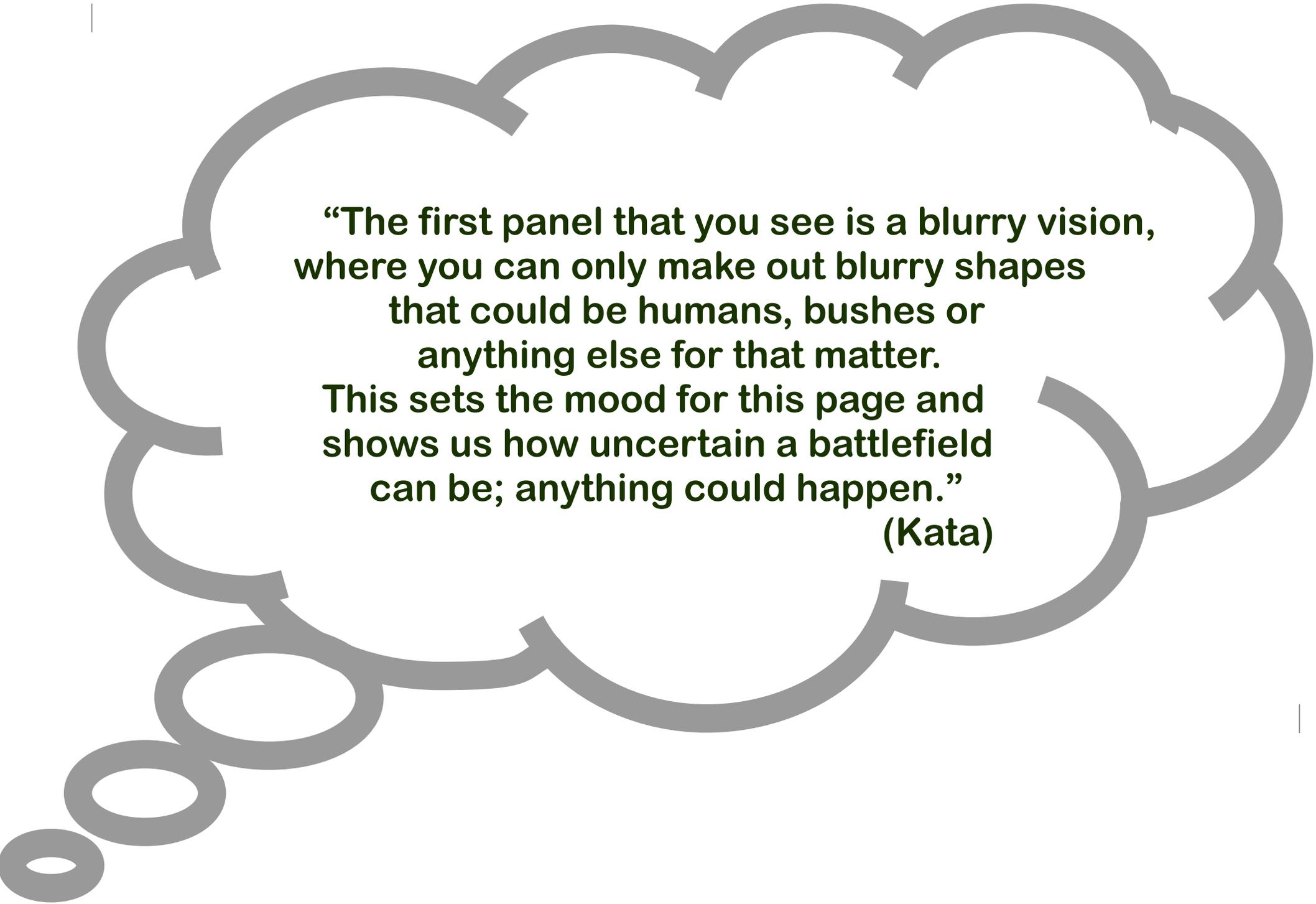
**You can see the painful, exhausted,
sad expressions on their faces.”**

(Sese)

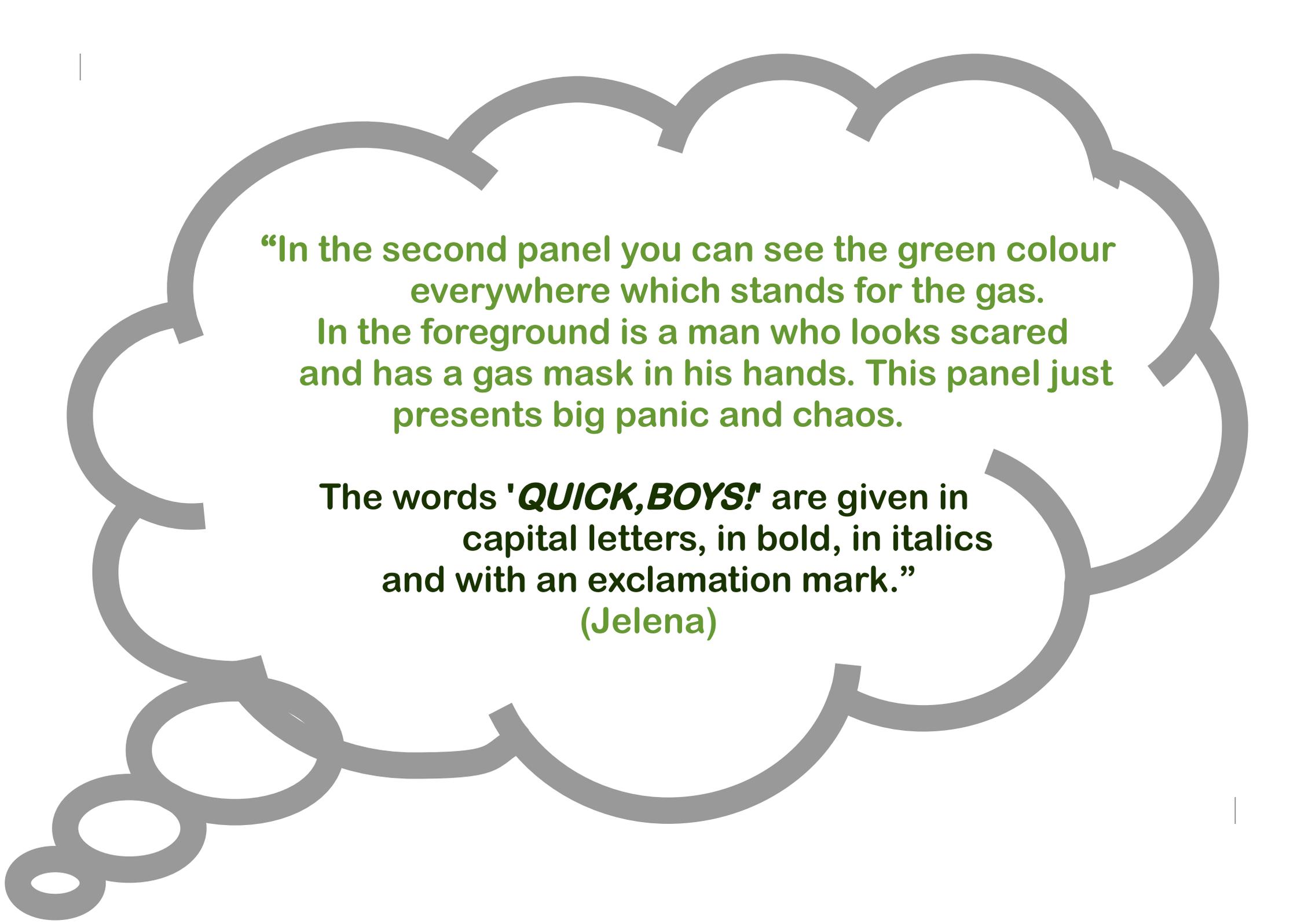


**“Apparently, some of them have lost their boots
during the fight.
So now they are forced to walk barefoot,
with their feet covered in the blood
of the victims of the war.”**

(Lucy)

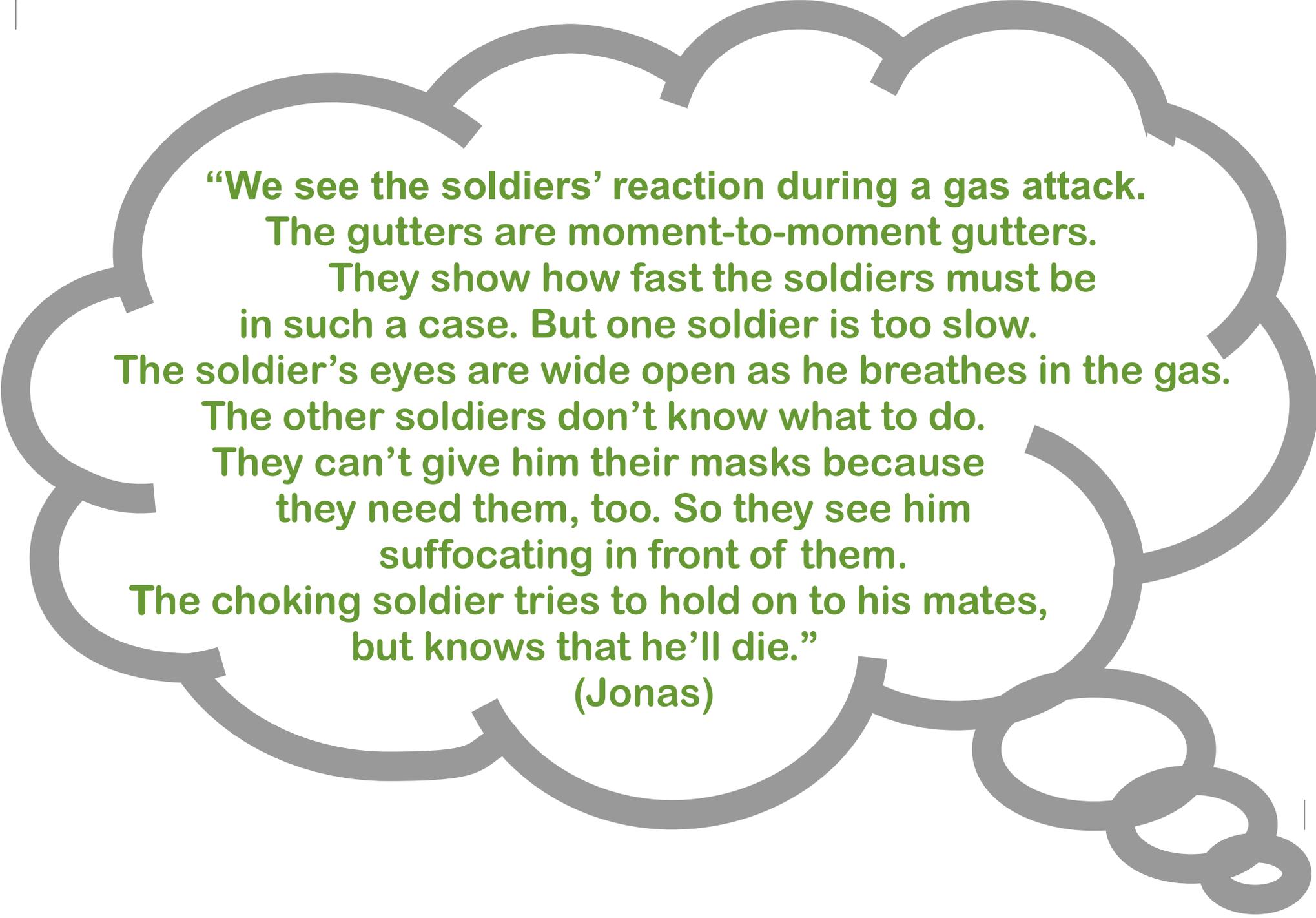


“The first panel that you see is a blurry vision, where you can only make out blurry shapes that could be humans, bushes or anything else for that matter. This sets the mood for this page and shows us how uncertain a battlefield can be; anything could happen.”
(Kata)

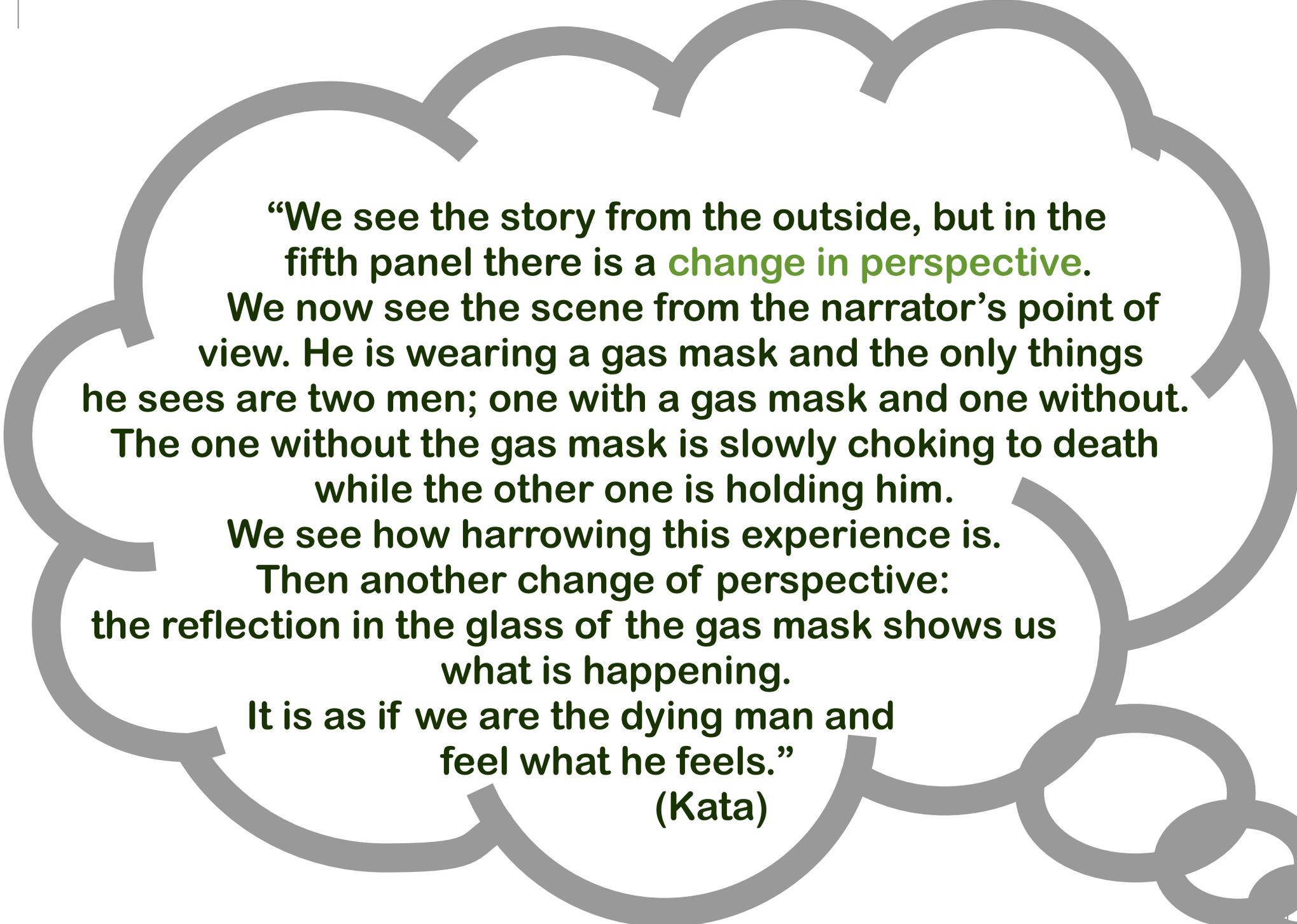


“In the second panel you can see the green colour everywhere which stands for the gas. In the foreground is a man who looks scared and has a gas mask in his hands. This panel just presents big panic and chaos.

The words '***QUICK,BOYS!***' are given in capital letters, in bold, in italics and with an exclamation mark.”
(Jelena)

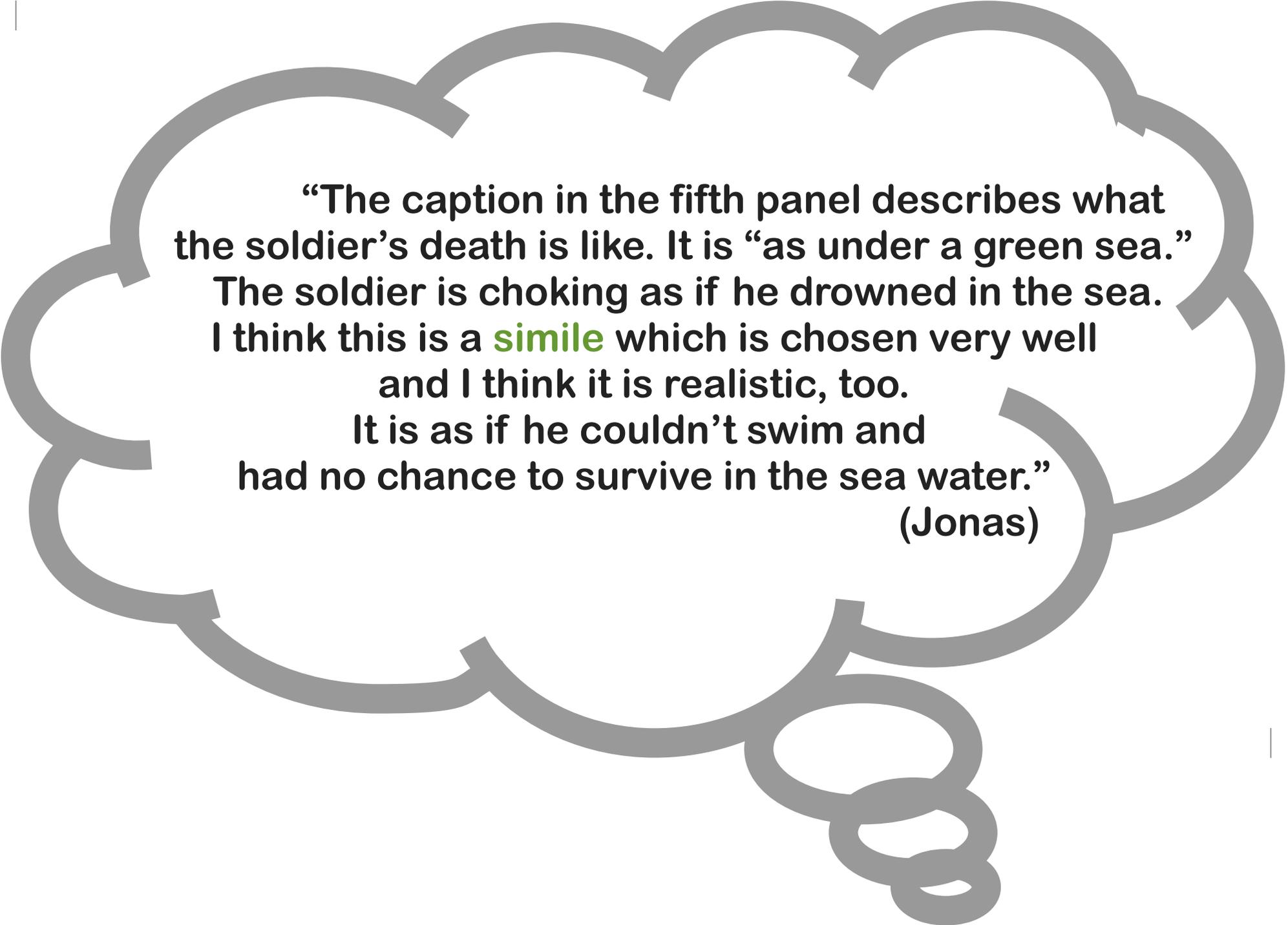


**“We see the soldiers’ reaction during a gas attack.
The gutters are moment-to-moment gutters.
They show how fast the soldiers must be
in such a case. But one soldier is too slow.
The soldier’s eyes are wide open as he breathes in the gas.
The other soldiers don’t know what to do.
They can’t give him their masks because
they need them, too. So they see him
suffocating in front of them.
The choking soldier tries to hold on to his mates,
but knows that he’ll die.”
(Jonas)**

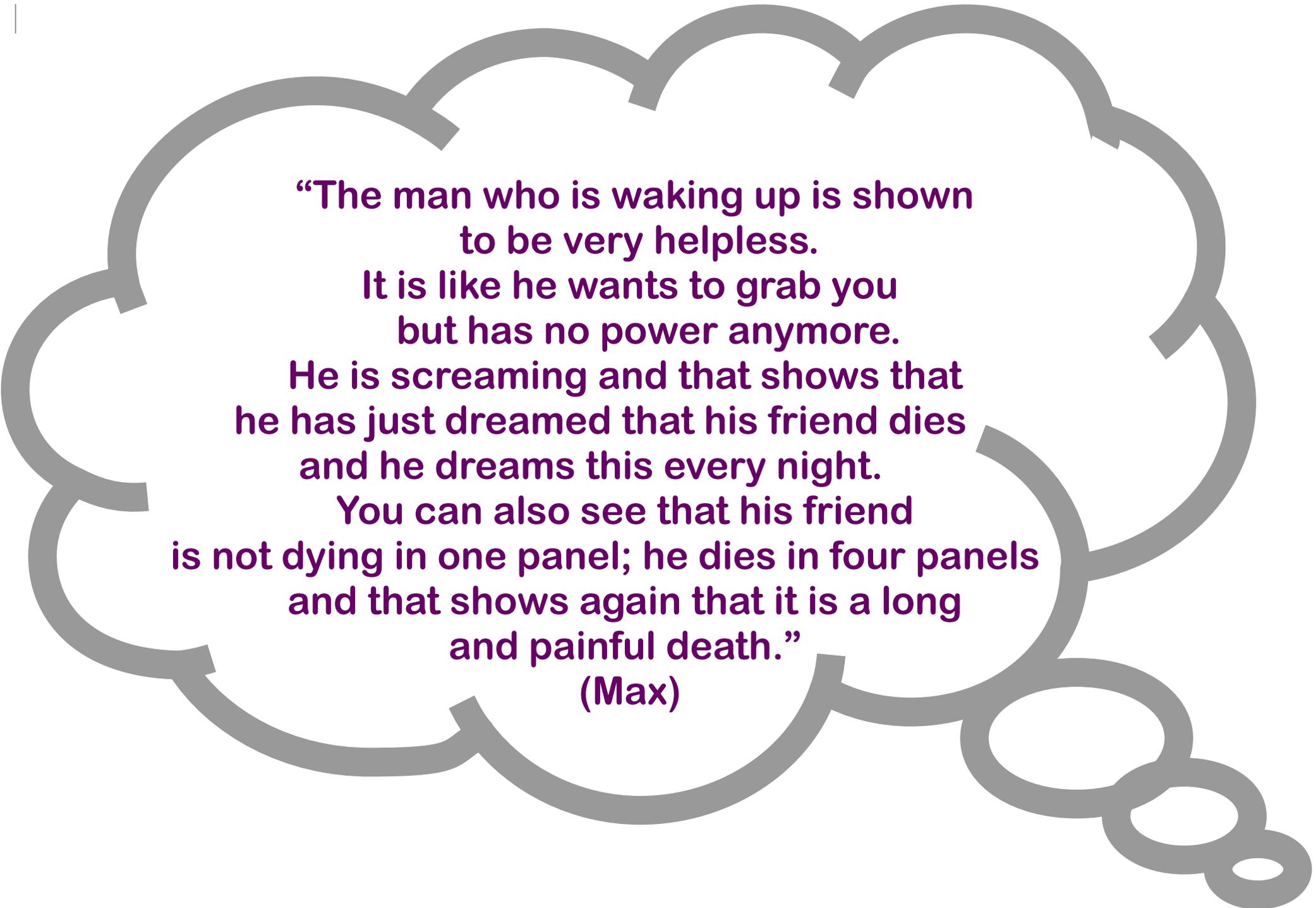


“We see the story from the outside, but in the fifth panel there is a **change in perspective. We now see the scene from the narrator’s point of view. He is wearing a gas mask and the only things he sees are two men; one with a gas mask and one without. The one without the gas mask is slowly choking to death while the other one is holding him. We see how harrowing this experience is. Then another change of perspective: the reflection in the glass of the gas mask shows us what is happening. It is as if we are the dying man and feel what he feels.”**

(Kata)



“The caption in the fifth panel describes what the soldier’s death is like. It is “as under a green sea.” The soldier is choking as if he drowned in the sea. I think this is a simile which is chosen very well and I think it is realistic, too. It is as if he couldn’t swim and had no chance to survive in the sea water.”
(Jonas)



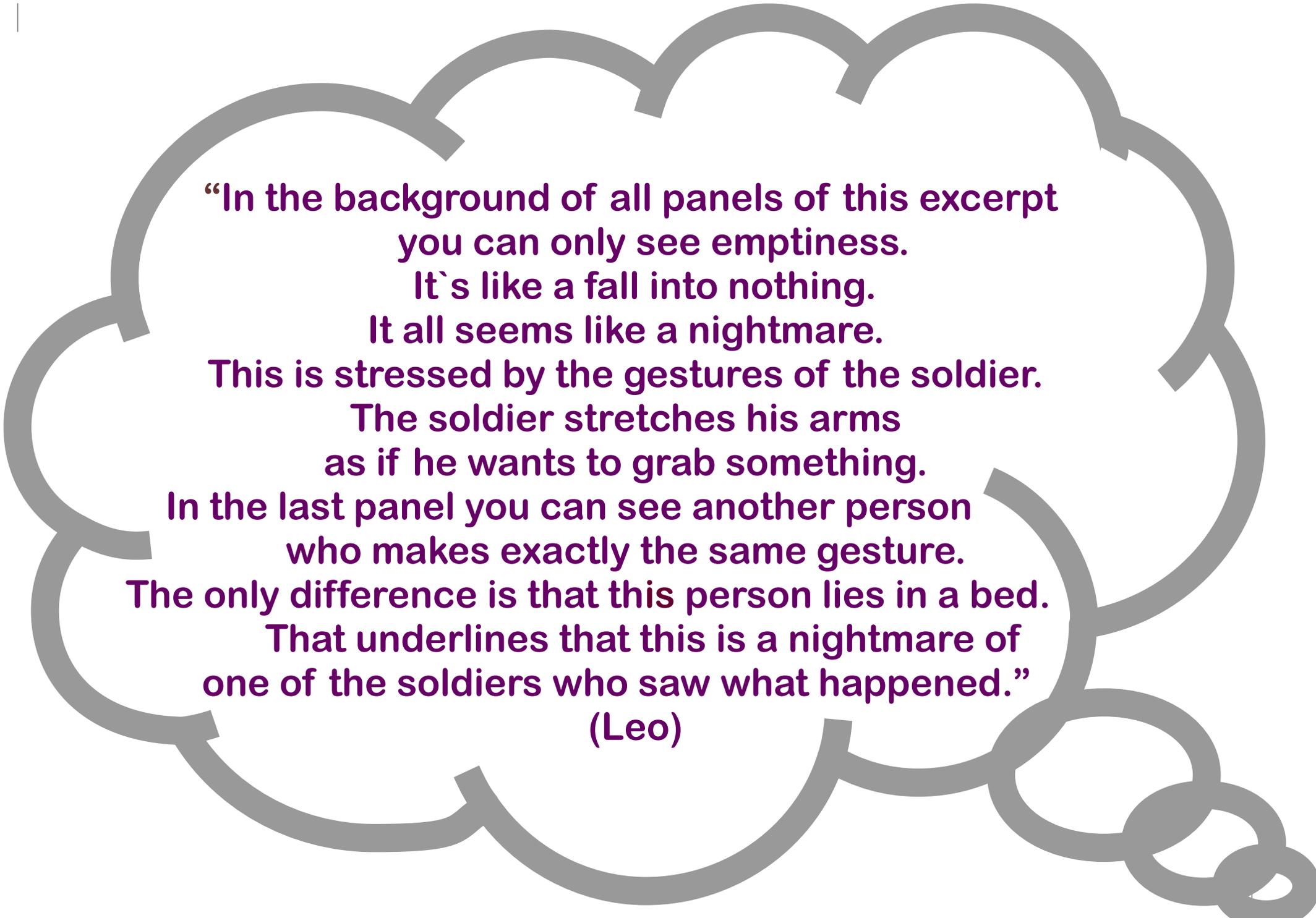
**“The man who is waking up is shown
to be very helpless.**

**It is like he wants to grab you
but has no power anymore.**

**He is screaming and that shows that
he has just dreamed that his friend dies
and he dreams this every night.**

**You can also see that his friend
is not dying in one panel; he dies in four panels
and that shows again that it is a long
and painful death.”**

(Max)



**“In the background of all panels of this excerpt
you can only see emptiness.
It`s like a fall into nothing.
It all seems like a nightmare.
This is stressed by the gestures of the soldier.
The soldier stretches his arms
as if he wants to grab something.
In the last panel you can see another person
who makes exactly the same gesture.
The only difference is that this person lies in a bed.
That underlines that this is a nightmare of
one of the soldiers who saw what happened.”**

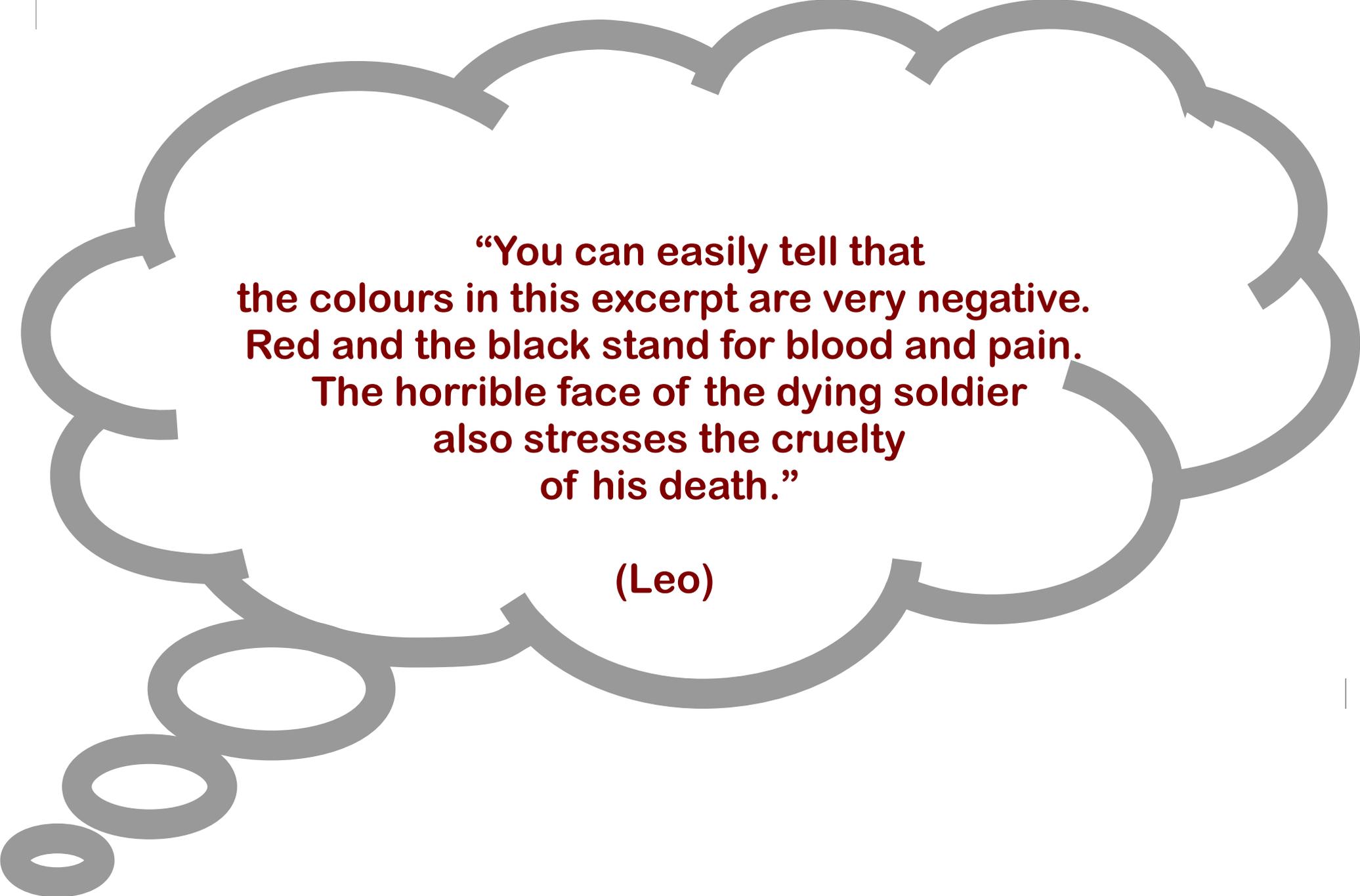
(Leo)

**“The gerunds in panels two to four
– guttering, choking, drowning -
let the reader think that this is happening now
and this makes it more realistic.**

**The soldier seems very helpless, because he is falling,
and the gesture shows that he tries to
get hold onto something, but he fails
and nobody can help him.**

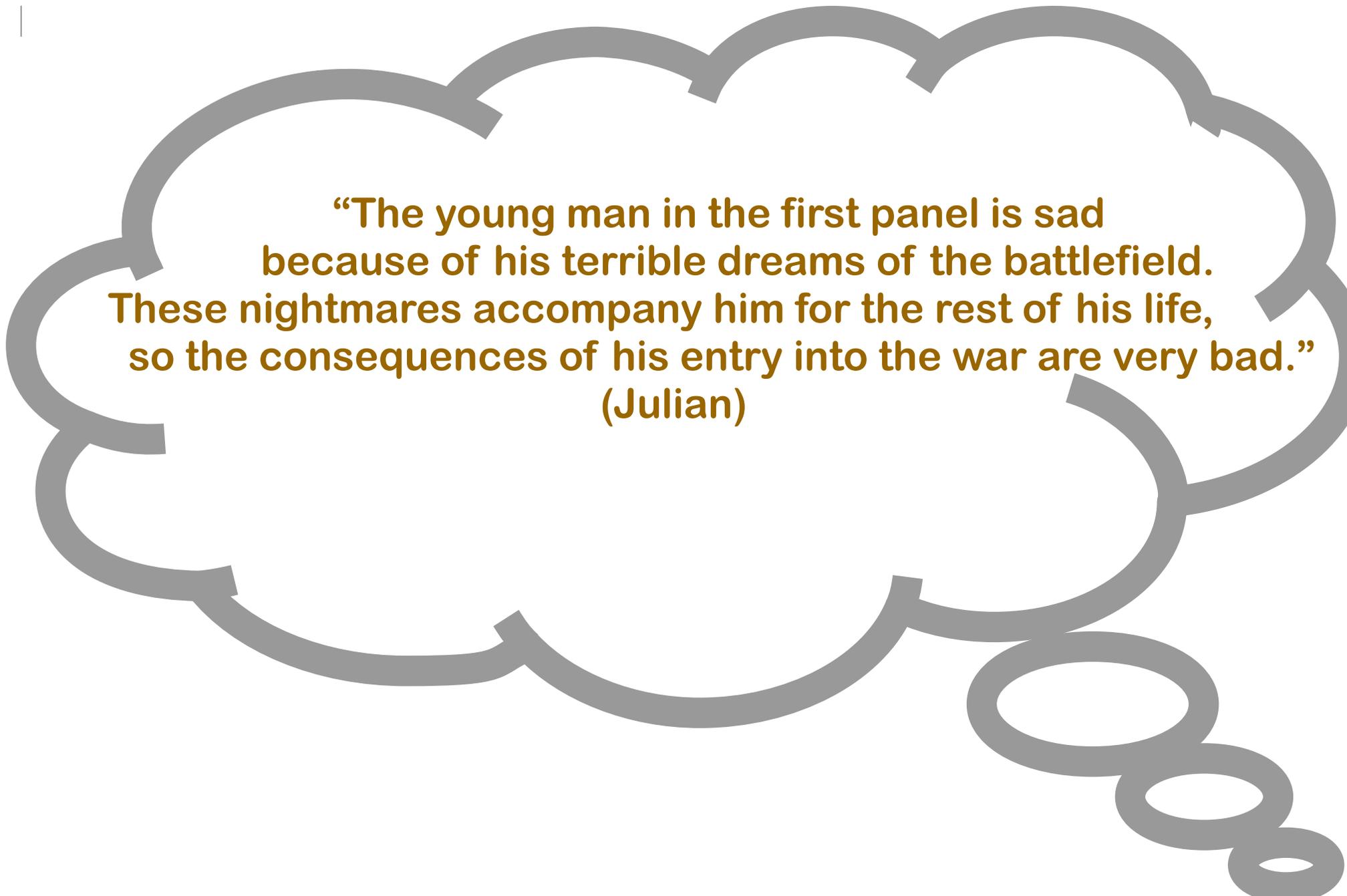
**This scene is dreadful, because it could happen
in reality and this would be horrible.”**

(Lennart)

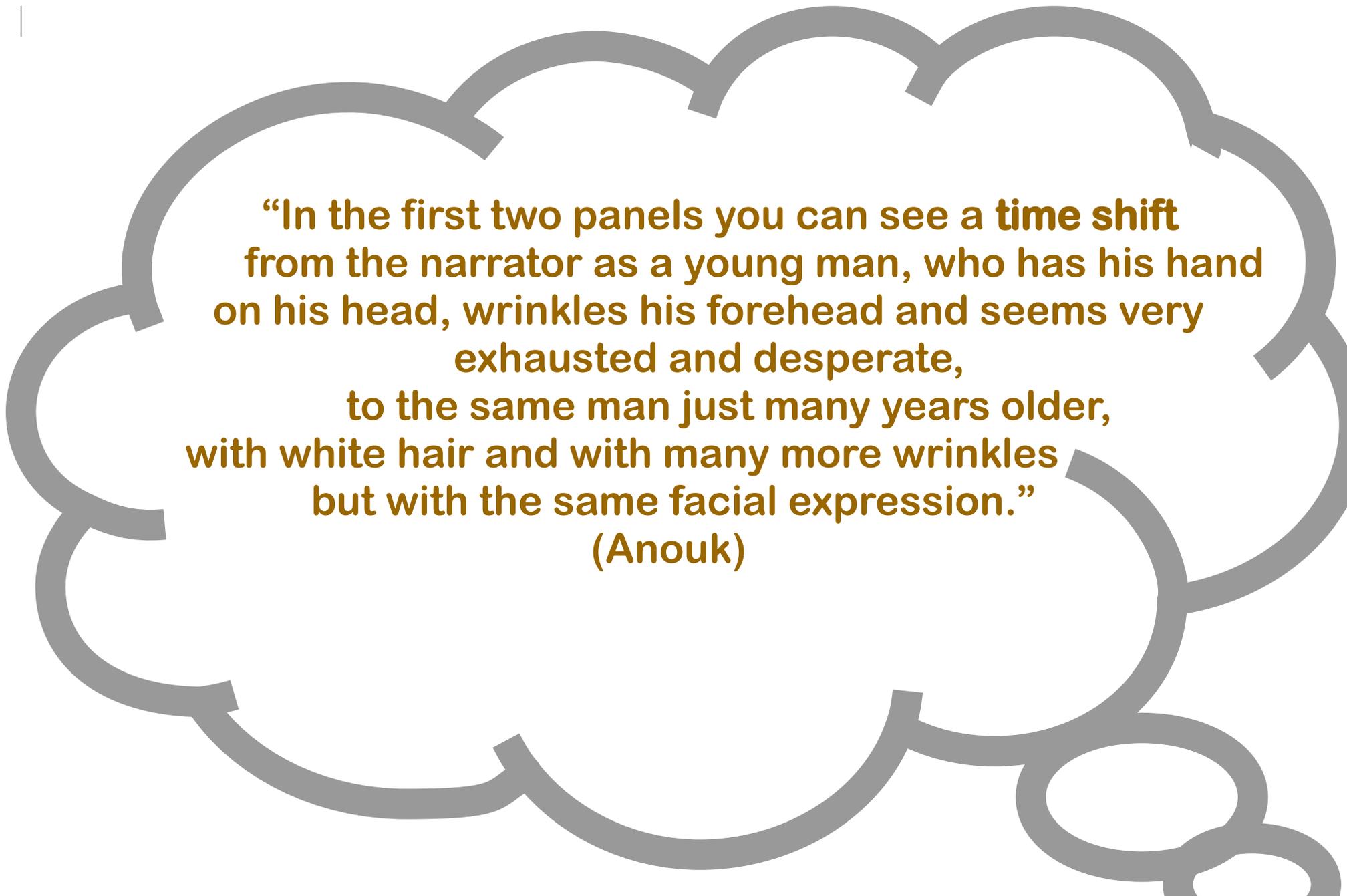


**“You can easily tell that
the colours in this excerpt are very negative.
Red and the black stand for blood and pain.
The horrible face of the dying soldier
also stresses the cruelty
of his death.”**

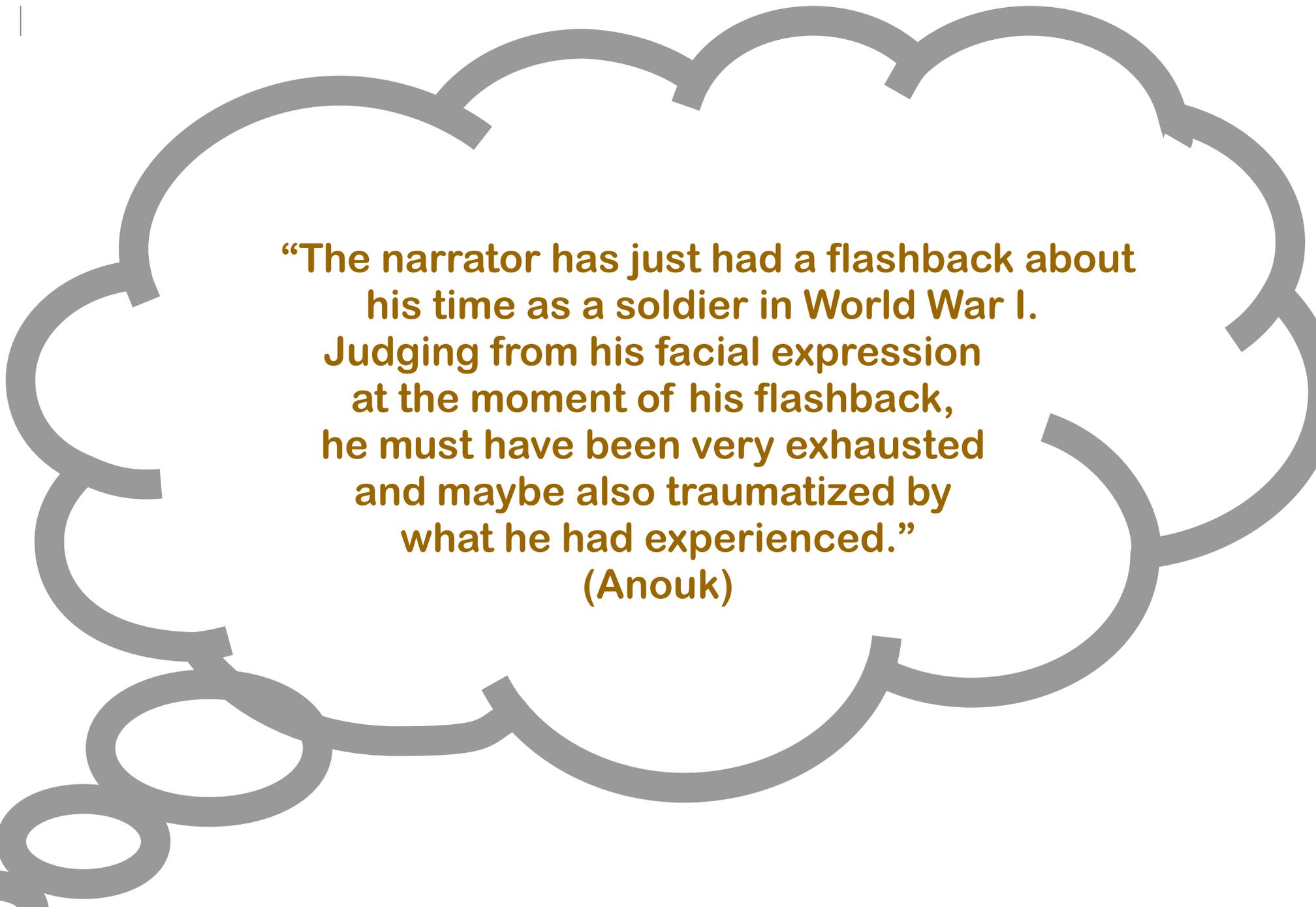
(Leo)



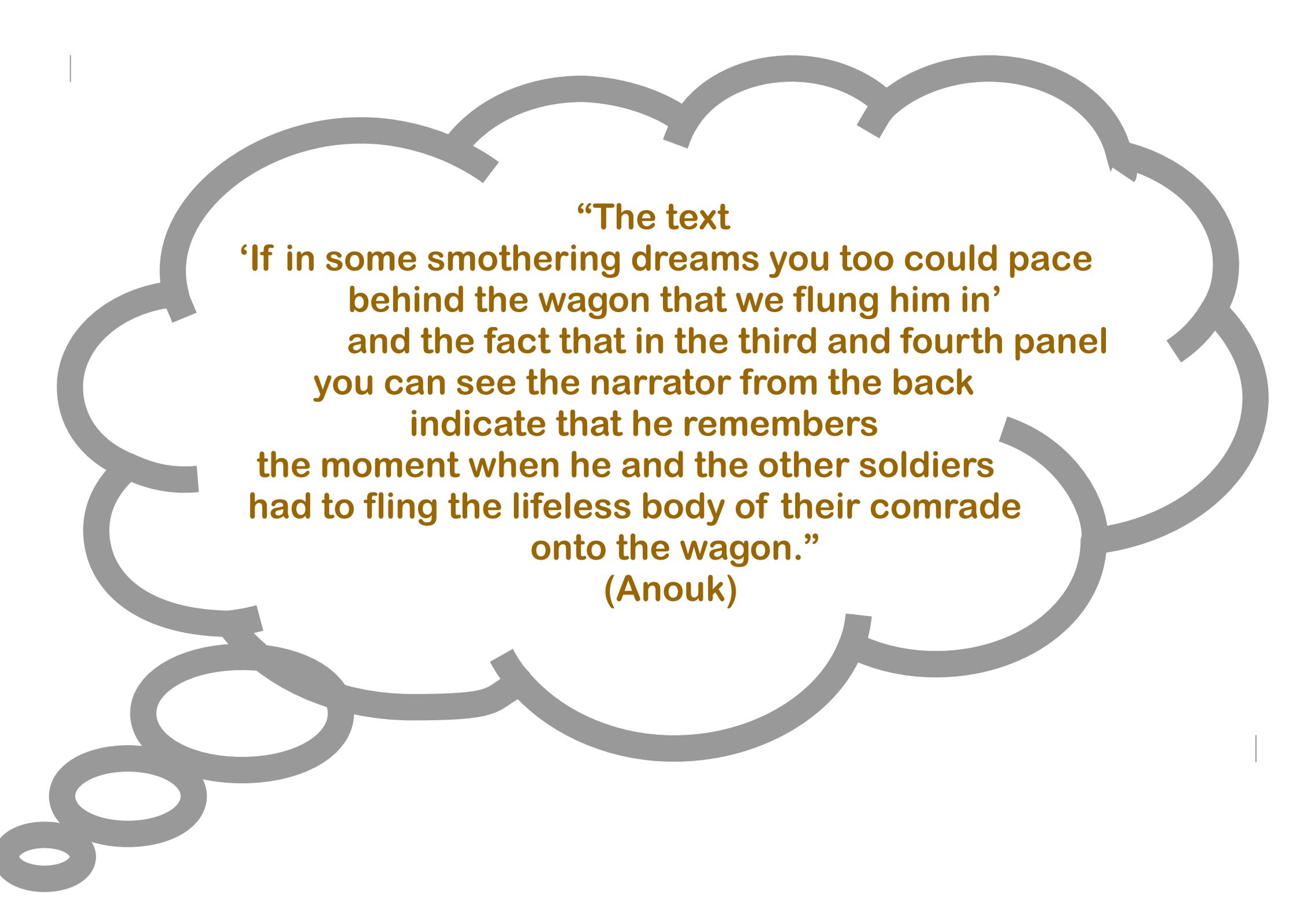
**“The young man in the first panel is sad because of his terrible dreams of the battlefield. These nightmares accompany him for the rest of his life, so the consequences of his entry into the war are very bad.”
(Julian)**



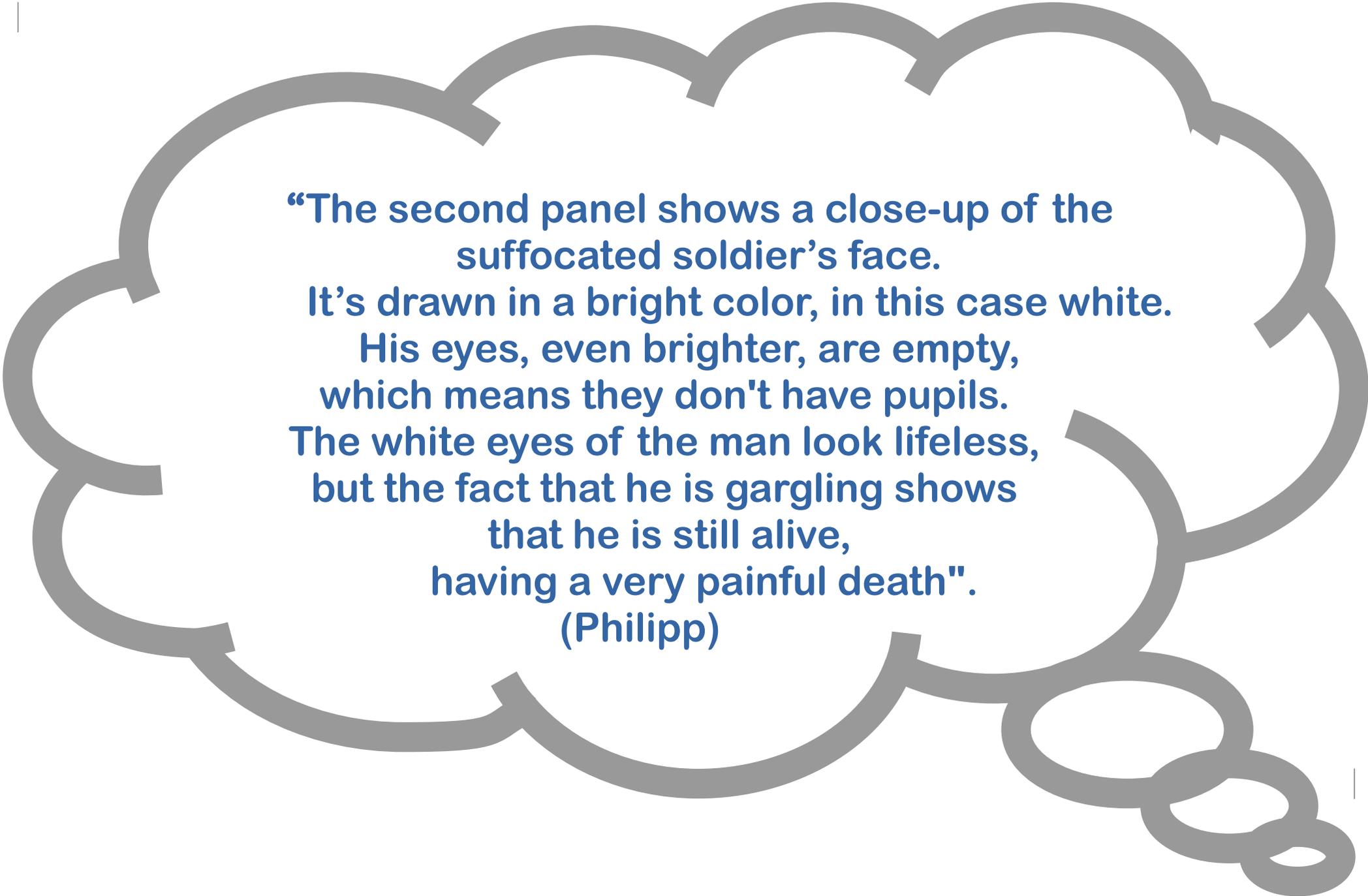
“In the first two panels you can see a **time shift from the narrator as a young man, who has his hand on his head, wrinkles his forehead and seems very exhausted and desperate, to the same man just many years older, with white hair and with many more wrinkles but with the same facial expression.”**
(Anouk)



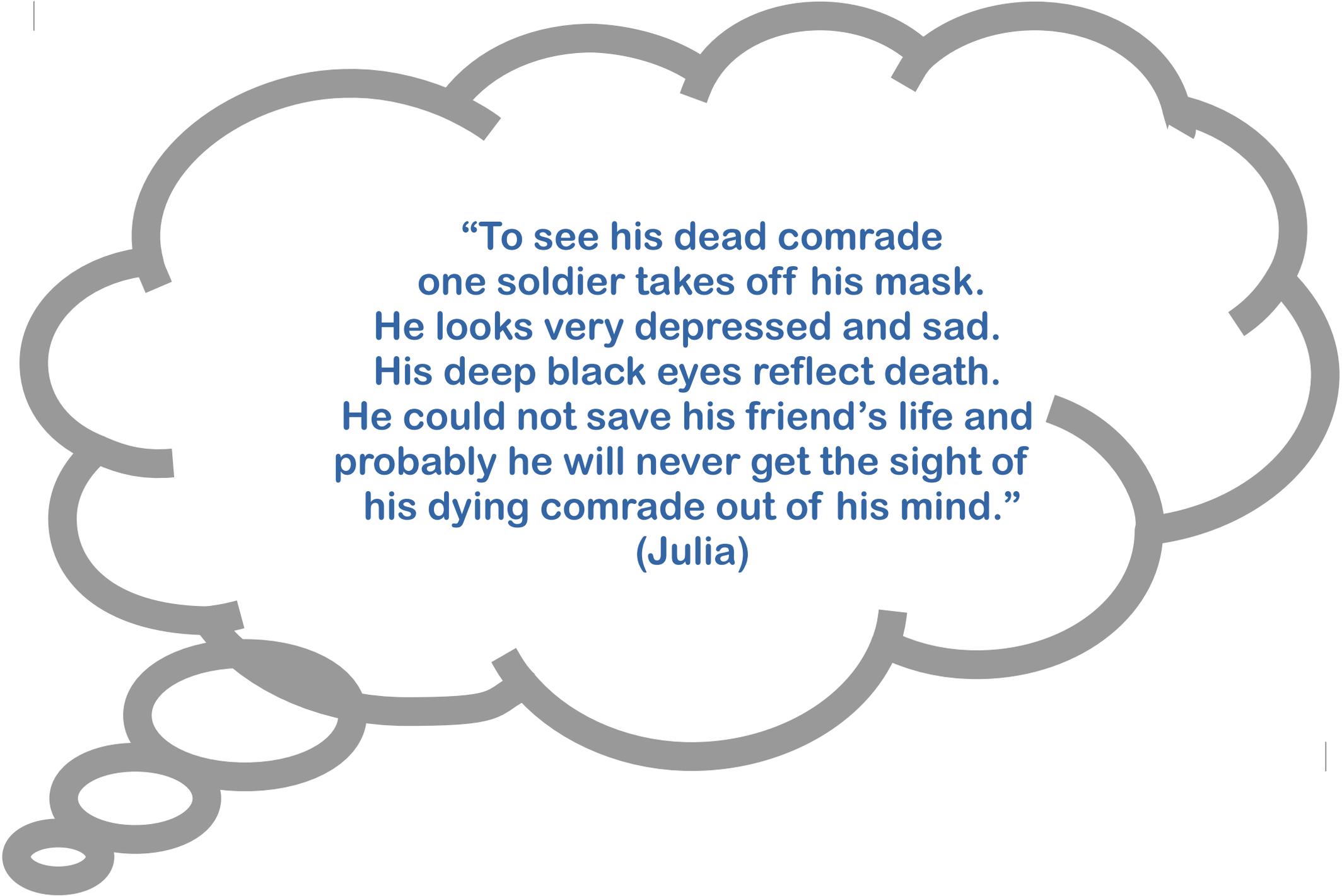
**“The narrator has just had a flashback about his time as a soldier in World War I. Judging from his facial expression at the moment of his flashback, he must have been very exhausted and maybe also traumatized by what he had experienced.”
(Anouk)**



**“The text
‘If in some smothering dreams you too could pace
behind the wagon that we flung him in’
and the fact that in the third and fourth panel
you can see the narrator from the back
indicate that he remembers
the moment when he and the other soldiers
had to fling the lifeless body of their comrade
onto the wagon.”
(Anouk)**



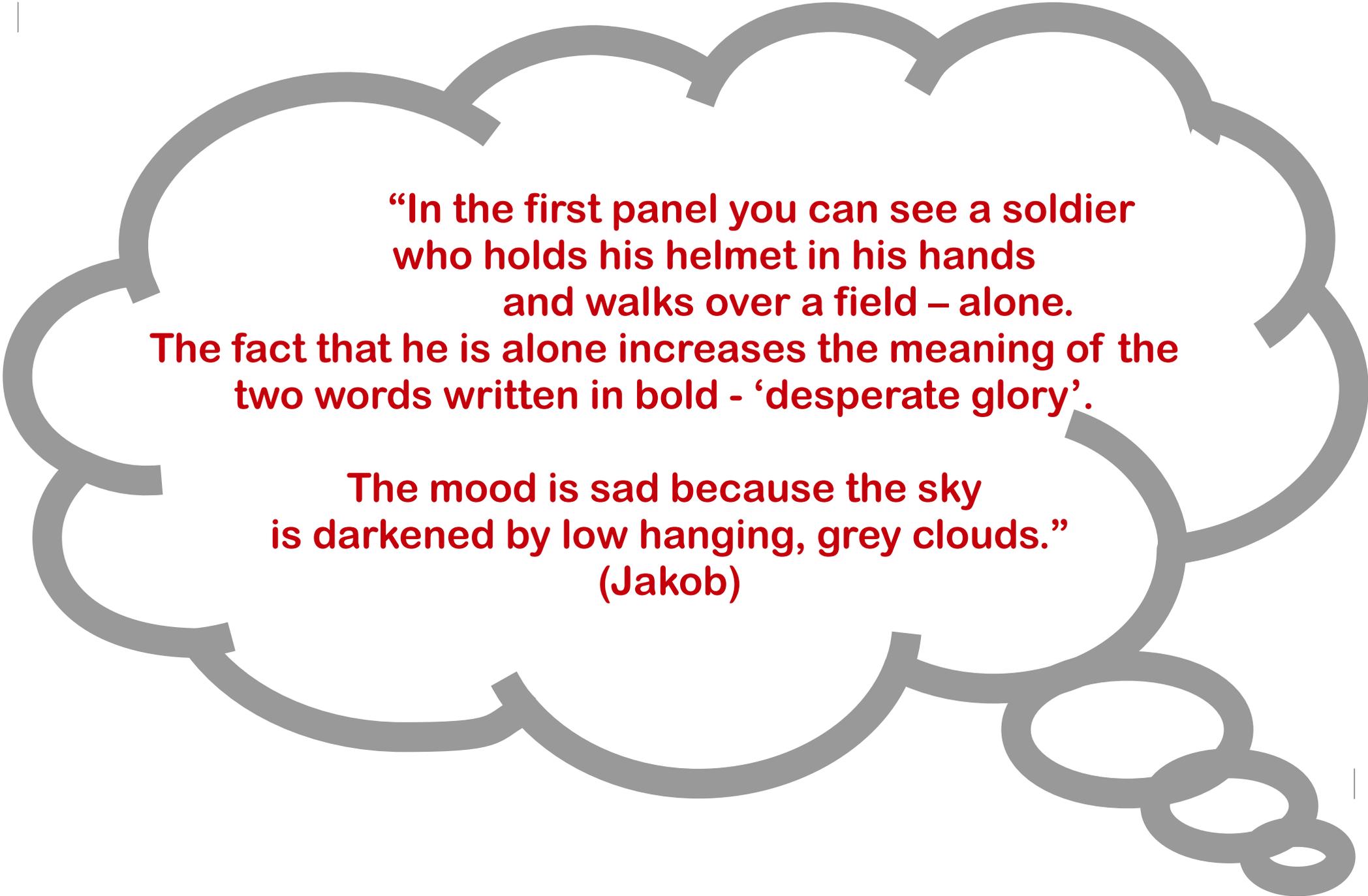
**“The second panel shows a close-up of the suffocated soldier’s face. It’s drawn in a bright color, in this case white. His eyes, even brighter, are empty, which means they don't have pupils. The white eyes of the man look lifeless, but the fact that he is gargling shows that he is still alive, having a very painful death”.
(Philipp)**



**“To see his dead comrade
one soldier takes off his mask.
He looks very depressed and sad.
His deep black eyes reflect death.
He could not save his friend’s life and
probably he will never get the sight of
his dying comrade out of his mind.”
(Julia)**



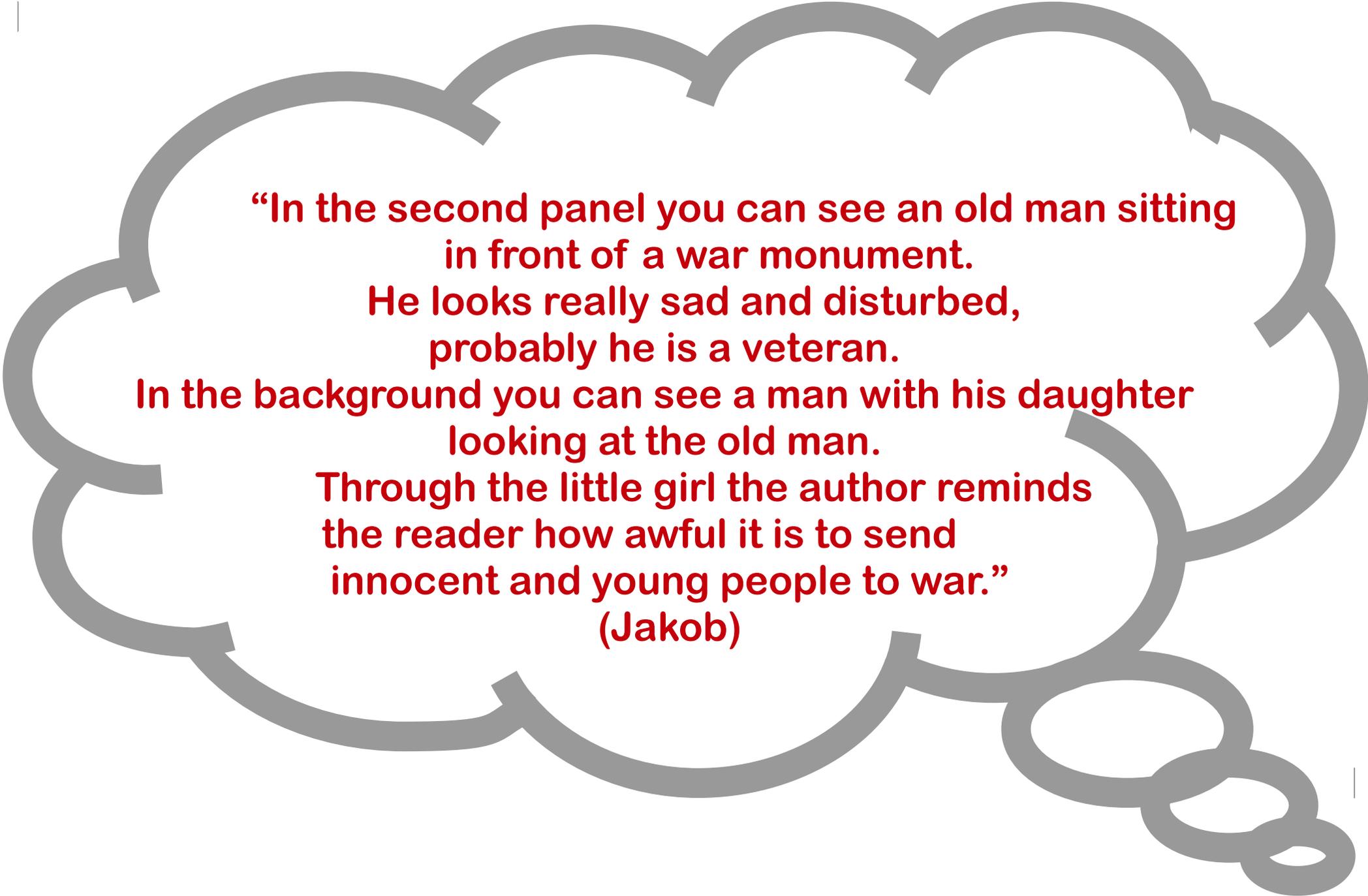
**“The colors black, white and red
that are used by the artist
create a scary and gloomy atmosphere.”
(Julia)**



**“In the first panel you can see a soldier
who holds his helmet in his hands
and walks over a field – alone.**

**The fact that he is alone increases the meaning of the
two words written in bold - ‘desperate glory’.**

**The mood is sad because the sky
is darkened by low hanging, grey clouds.”
(Jakob)**

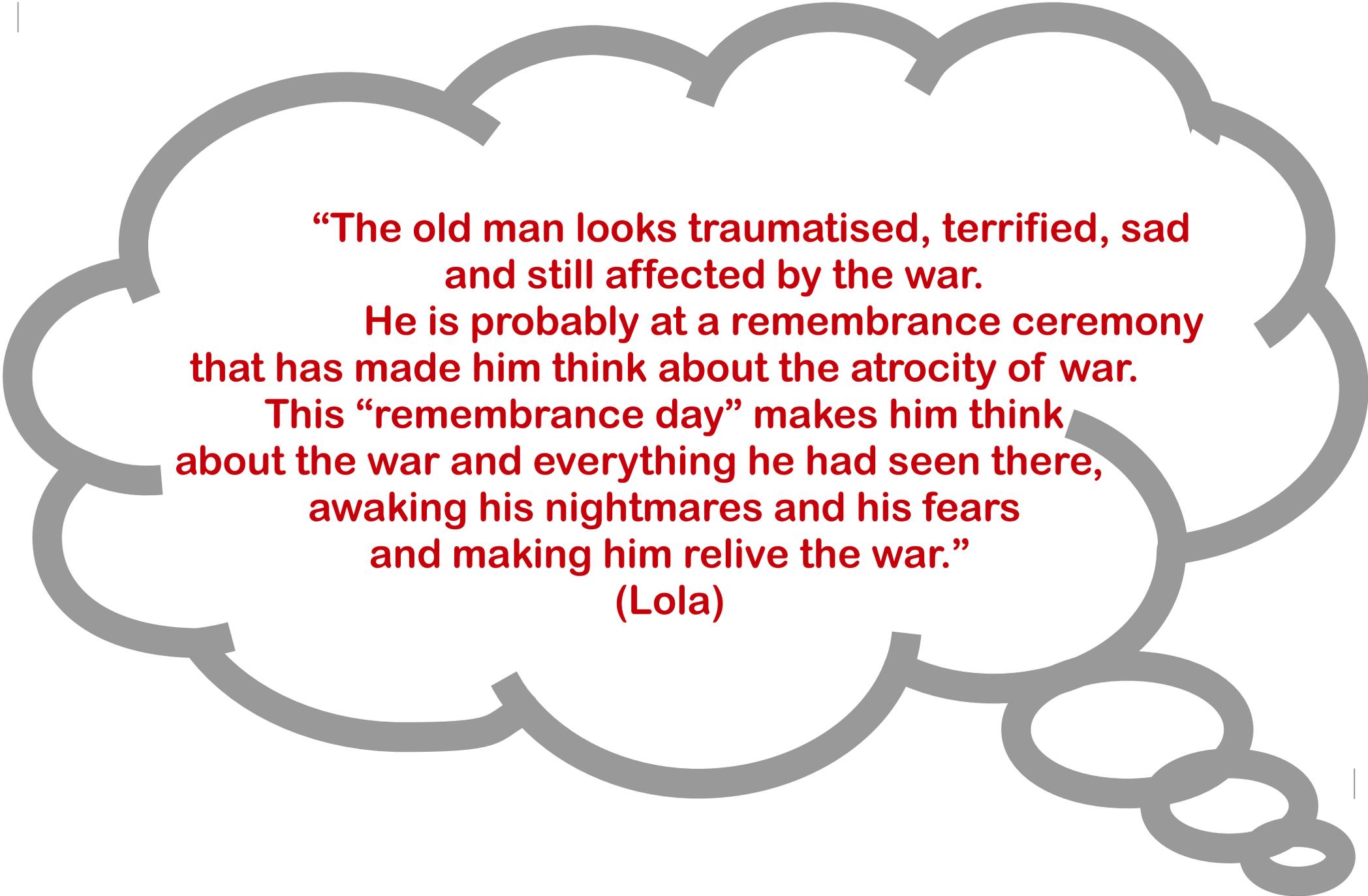


**“In the second panel you can see an old man sitting
in front of a war monument.
He looks really sad and disturbed,
probably he is a veteran.**

**In the background you can see a man with his daughter
looking at the old man.**

**Through the little girl the author reminds
the reader how awful it is to send
innocent and young people to war.”**

(Jakob)

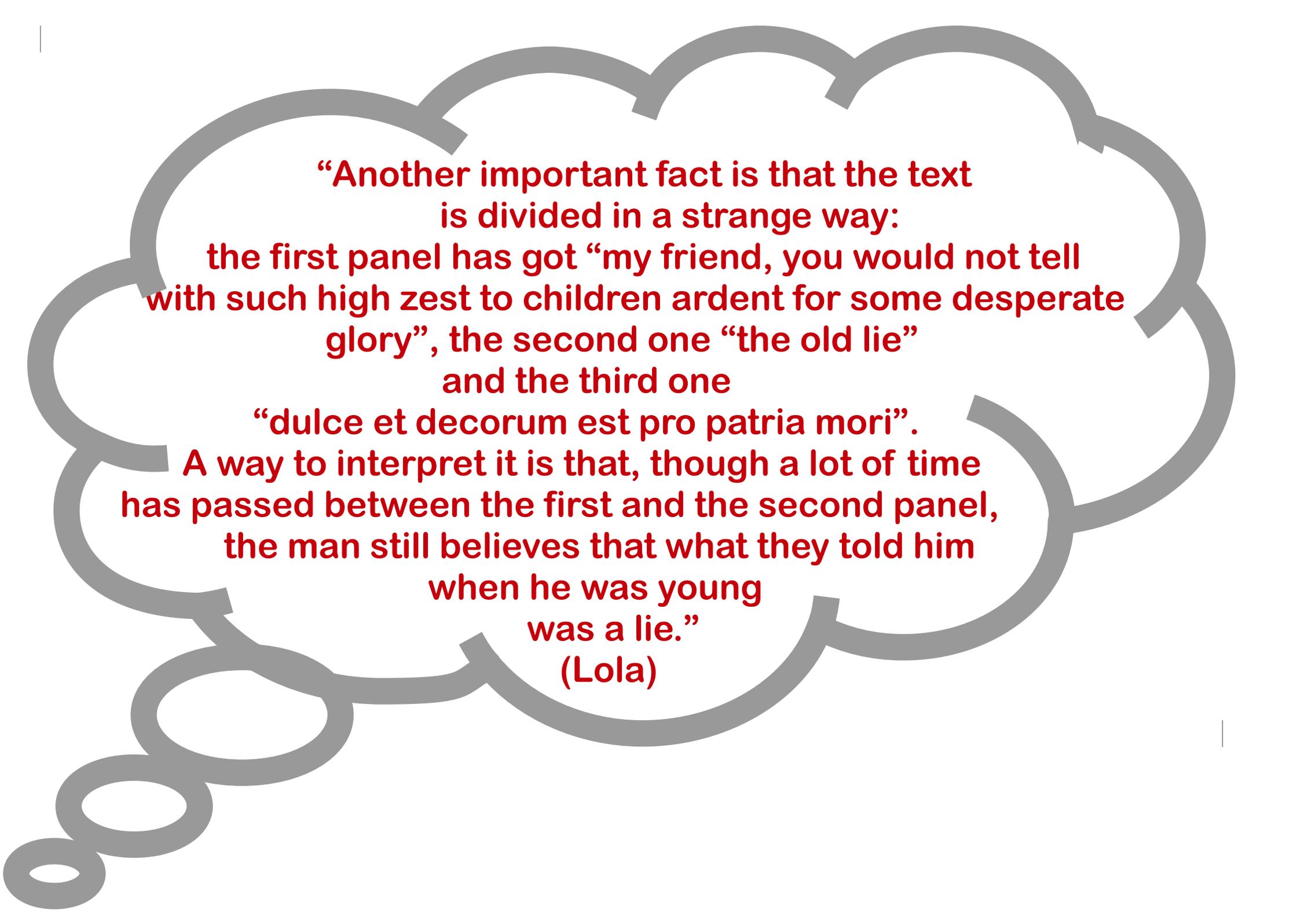


**“The old man looks traumatised, terrified, sad
and still affected by the war.**

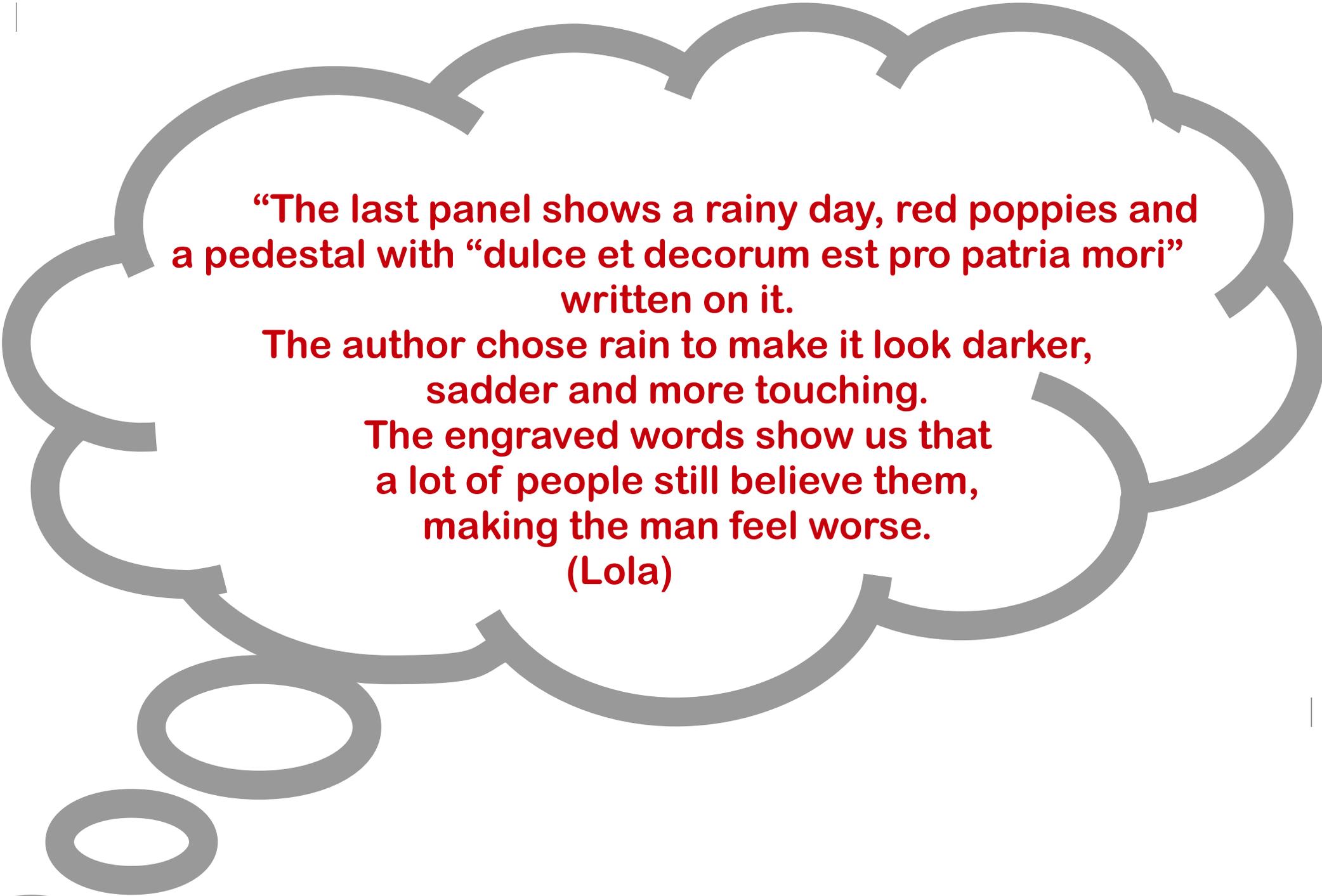
**He is probably at a remembrance ceremony
that has made him think about the atrocity of war.**

**This “remembrance day” makes him think
about the war and everything he had seen there,
awaking his nightmares and his fears
and making him relive the war.”**

(Lola)



**“Another important fact is that the text
is divided in a strange way:
the first panel has got “my friend, you would not tell
with such high zest to children ardent for some desperate
glory”, the second one “the old lie”
and the third one
“dulce et decorum est pro patria mori”.
A way to interpret it is that, though a lot of time
has passed between the first and the second panel,
the man still believes that what they told him
when he was young
was a lie.”
(Lola)**



“The last panel shows a rainy day, red poppies and a pedestal with “dulce et decorum est pro patria mori” written on it.

The author chose rain to make it look darker, sadder and more touching.

The engraved words show us that a lot of people still believe them, making the man feel worse.

(Lola)