Roughly a century before the beginning of the series, a mysterious race of giant, man-eating humanoids, known as "Titans", suddenly appeared and nearly exterminated humanity. In order to protect themselves from this threat, the few survivors built three concentric Walls, called Maria, Rose, and Sheena, and encased themselves in this limited territory, forgetting everything about the outside world and the history before the building of the Walls. In the present, a boy named Eren Yeager and his childhood friends Mikasa Ackerman and Armin Arlert dream about seeing the world outside the Walls some day; but their peace is abruptly interrupted when an unusual 60-meter tall Colossus Titan and an Armored Titan breach the outermost Wall, and Eren sees his mother dying in the resulting devastation. Eren vows revenge against the Titans and later enlists in the military branch Survey Corps, accompanied by both Mikasa and Armin. As the story progresses, more mysteries surrounding the true origin and nature of the Titans, as well as the lost history of the world are addressed, and the reader gradually discovers that the Titans may not be the real enemies. Eren and the Survey Corps find themselves as the only remaining hope for their civilization, as they fight to uncover secrets from the past and stop the forces that want to bring about the destruction of mankind in the present and future.

What is the main threat humanity faces in this story?

Answer: Giant, man-eating humanoids called Titans.

How do humans protect themselves from the Titans?

Answer: They live within three enormous concentric walls called Maria, Rose, and Sheena.

What event disrupts the peace within the Walls?

Answer: Two unusual Titans, a 60-meter Colossus Titan and an Armored Titan, breach the outermost Wall.

What motivates the main character, Eren Yeager, to join the military?

Answer: He witnesses his mother being killed by a Titan and vows revenge.

What is the underlying mystery hinted at in the text?

Answer: The true origin and nature of the Titans, along with the lost history of the world outside the Walls.