Analyze the protagonist Kattrin. What is her story and how is she staged (use quotations or key moments in the text) ?

* In the beginning of the play, we know that Kattrin has “a black cross in [her] path.” It is unclear how her death will come about considering she is more reliant on Mother Courage than the two boys (Eilif and Swiss Cheese).
* Kattrin as someone who can’t speak (or doesn’t speak) but still “keeps moving forward.” When Eilif goes with the recruiting officer, she helps pull the wagon.
* Kattrin as “respectable young woman” not “Captivating” (even before she has scar)
* Kattrin’s early desire for the red boots seems interesting. It may be used to show a sense of naivety considering, when she puts on the hat and boots, she looks “like Yvette.” Mother Courage quickly makes her take it off. But I think there might be something more there. Maybe Kattrin is using these too look different, an imaginative escape from her “normal” self during a war (Mother Courage to Kattrin later when she finds the boots: “Save your proud ways for peacetimes!”). Note how this desire for the boots ends when she is physically assaulted.
* Kattrin is brave in that she is the one who runs into the building to save the peasant infant. But also quite motherly in that she hums to the baby too. Question for class: do not really understand scene where she holds baby high above her head?
* Kattrin also is willing to get beat up and attacked to bring items back to Mother Courage. A bit of a juxtaposition with Mother Courage who (as I see) is very intent on personally surviving at all costs.
* Mother Courage: “I wish I knew what goes on inside her head. She stayed out all night once – once in all the years. I never did get out of her what happened.” Seems as if something traumatic has happened to Kattrin that has prevented her from talking ever again?
* “Peace is nothing to her.” Kattrin seems to be in a precarious situation in peace or war time. See quote above; something happened to her previously that possibly prevented her from talking, but she also has been beat up during war. Kattrin knows the fragility of so-called “peace.”
* Interesting that Kattrin expects Mother Courage to abandon her.
* Role of Drums play an interesting role with Kattrin. She hears the drums of war when Swiss Cheese is killed. Yvette asks if Kattrin knows what the drums mean and Mother Courage simply says, “She knows. Bring her.” Also when Kattrin comes back to Mother Courage with a wound above eye, it is interesting that she is carrying a drum… This is the drum that she uses in the end of the play. Kattrin uses the drums to wake the townspeople. This is somewhat of a repurposing considering she uses it to help the town than “kill” the town. Though, it does mark her own death.