

## Question 1

In Borchert's "The Kitchen Clock", the impact of war is immediately shown by the opening line, in which the narrator paints an image of a weathered young man for the reader. The story continues with a conversation between the young man and another man and woman on a bench. Their entire dialogue focuses on a clock, which the young man carries with him as the last remains of his family and property. The young man's demeanor towards the situation tells the reader that he has struggled with and, in a way, come to terms with the war in proximity to his life. This leads to an interpretation of the story taking place during war time, much because of the man's young age. He has clearly recently gone through traumas.

Moreover, the ending to this story potentially takes a twist, with the line, "And the man sitting next to him looked at his shoes. But he didn't see his shoes. He kept thinking of the word paradise". It's a challenge to develop an interpretation of this passage that does not heavily weigh on this final line. While the prefacing information plants a setting for the reader to digest, the comment that the man did not see his own shoes and thinks of paradise begs to question whether he was hallucinating. Another conclusion to the story could be that the young man and woman were not real in that moment, but perhaps a glimpse of the man's memory or imagination. With that, an opposing view is that the story is post war, reflecting on subjects such as PTSD.

Regardless of its interpretation, "The Kitchen Clock" seeps with simple yet deep imagery of the effects of war on human life.

## Question 2

I believe that "The Man Outside" provides a healthy point of view and most people would benefit from reading it. The author does something unique that caught my attention, and I assume the attention of others, and that thing was to profusely repeat themselves. Line after line, they told the reader to say no. However, each line was distinctive by who it was written for; as every type of common person was targeted. Ultimately, the author is reminding people to remain aware of their own ideals, rather than senselessly giving in to national agendas. Considering where Germany stood societally in terms of war, anti-propaganda does not surprise me in the slightest. In fact, I am excited to have read it.