**Guide to *The* *Resurrection of the Soldiers***

Use the following information to help shape the starter task, by choosing one of the activities below:

1) As a whole class, look for the features detailed below.

2) In small groups. get pupils to interrogate the painting and use sticky notes to label the parts that they see or have questions about.

3) Give pupils the information and have them look for the features in the picture and postulate why Spencer put them into the painting.

Insert image from
<https://www.wikiart.org/en/stanley-spencer/the-resurrection-of-the-soldiers-1929>

Image: The Resurrection of the Soldiers

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**Things to identify in the painting**

* Dead soldiers and horses are being resurrected.
* A collapsed wagon sits at the centre of the piece (this was taken from Spencer’s recollection of a dead Bulgarian mule team carrying ammunition during the War).
* A living soldier hands his rifle back at the end of the War.
* Crosses are being carried towards Christ, who is represented in the top middle of the painting in white.
* Everyday military chores are being conducted, such as the winding-up of puttees (leg supports for soldiers) and the cleaning of brass buttons on uniforms.
* Men are framed by their crosses near the altarpiece of the chapel – real art linked to the space that it occupies (a real altar sits in front of the painting).
* Soldiers emerge from their graves and shake hands with their living friends.
* A young soldier is studying the cross and Christ.
* Crosses are being uprooted from where the dead lay.

**Cards for pupils**

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| --- | --- |
| Dead soldiers and horses being resurrected | Collapsed wagon still connected to horses |
| Living soldier handing his rifle back | Christ holding the crosses from the dead |
| Military chores like brass button cleaning or winding up puttees | Men framed by their crosses |
| Dead soldiers shaking hands with the living | A young soldier studying the cross |
| Crosses being uprooted by the dead soldiers, who no longer need them | A man trapped by barbed wire |

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