

Land of the brave

Zoom in

Part 1

1. The setting.

a. When? 18th century. **Interwar period.** Late 20th century.

→ Explain your choice: **the young men's clothes + the soldiers' uniforms and rifles.**

b. Where? The characters are in **the courtyard of a cottage or of a small farm, probably in Ireland.**

2. What has Damien come for?

To say goodbye. To say hello. To wish Sinead a happy birthday.

3. The young men have been...

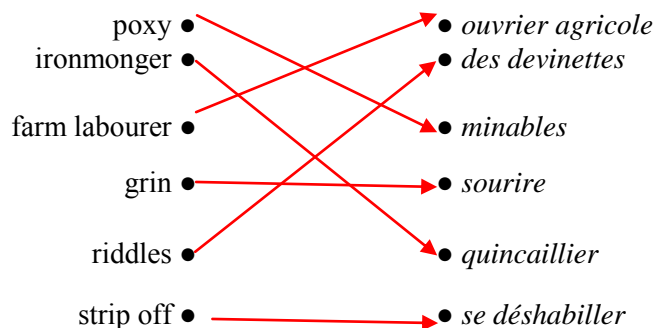
holding a political meeting.

working in the fields.

playing hurling (a traditional Irish sport).

→ Explain your choice: **The young men are holding sticks that look like bats or (field) hockey sticks and the sergeant mentions "poxy little games", so they have probably been playing this traditional game.**

4. Match these expressions from the dialogues with their translations.



5. Choose the right verb to describe the soldiers' arrival.

They... walk in. **storm in.** climb in. drift in.

→ Explain your choice: **they run into the courtyard very quickly and they shout very loudly.**

6. When the British soldiers arrive, the slow **swift** camera movements emphasise (*accentuent*): **the impression of danger/ urgency or the tension of the situation.**

7. a. Fill in each gap with one word.

The "Defence of the Realm act" states that all **public meetings** are **banned**. This includes the young men's **games**.

b. Saying this, the sergeant implies that the soldiers' official mission is only to:

break the law. change the law. **enforce the law.**

8. The sergeant orders one of his soldiers to take down the men's **details**, that is to say their **names**, **addresses** and **occupations**.

9. Pick the adjectives that best describe the sergeant. Justify your choices.

quiet friendly **loud-mouthed** open-minded **insulting** **rude** respectful
 honourable clever **brutal** powerless **hateful**

10. Pick the adjectives that best describe Micheail. Justify your choices.

submissive **proud** relaxed **reckless / imprudent** **defiant** **brave** shy
 rebellious obedient stupid respectful

11. What do Damien and Micheail's mother try to do? Why?

Part 2

12. **Background music.**

a. Tick the musical instruments you recognise.

guitar piano accordion **flute** **double bass** (*contrebasse*)
 trumpet triangle **drum** bagpipes (*cornemuse*)

b. Say what their sound evokes in you.

13. Describe the landscape using the following phrases and words.

The men are advancing in... • We can see • We can't see... • We can hear... •

rocky • hilly • dreary (*morne*) • marsh → **marshy** (*marécageux*) • steps • tread (*fouler / marcher sur*) • **terrain**

14. What are the men actually doing? → They are **training/ being drilled**, using their sticks as if they were **rifles**.

15. "Where's the rest of that shagging section?"

Choose a synonym for "shagging" in the question Finbar asks:

excellent.
 inefficient.
 small.

16. Finbar asks some of the boys to go **down** because in a real situation they would **be dead/ have been shot/ have been killed**. In this exercise he would have lost **50** % of the men.

17. Why is this a problem? → They are "not **easily replaceable**."

18. Finbar warns them: "[If] the Brits **see** you they are going to **kill** you. "[If] the Brits **catch** you they are going to **kill** you."

Look back

19. Do you think there is a link between the two extracts? Explain.

20. What can you deduce about Damien's presence in the second part?