



## RESOURCE 6

### Essay by a pupil named Viricorci, aged 9, March 1916

« Dear little teacher. What I would like to be. Why. Soldier of the class 17. Why to kill the Germanic and I would like to do that for France and for my HOMELAND. I would like to be in the trench and run the bayonet to take out their sauerkraut. me i would like to be in the heroics and in the colonial infantry because there we go with the bayonet or in reconnaissance crawling to cut the head to boches ...»

Source: Quoted by M. Pignot, *Allons enfants de la patrie, op. cit., p. 143*; published by the *Bibliothèque Nationale de France* on its [14-18 online exhibitions website](#)

### Extract from an elementary school reading textbook from 1941

‘Rumble, rumble, march, march, march! Hurray! Music! Music! Those are soldiers. They march in columns of three with steel helmets and weapons. The captain rides before them. He wears the Iron Cross on his left side and has a scar on his face. Where was he hit by the bullet? In Norway, France, Greece, Africa, or in Russia? He can talk about the war. The young soldiers are covered with dust. Where are they coming from? Where are they marching to? They are followed by machine guns and an artillery piece. The music stops. The soldiers sing: “A little flower blooms in the meadow, and it is called...”.’

Source: *Fibel für die Volksschulen Württembergs (Stuttgart: Verlag der Union Deutsche Verlagsgesellschaft, 1941)*, [German Propaganda Archive](#)

### Extract from an article in a weekly magazine for elementary school children in the GDR

‘The successes of socialism and its growing international reputation led to a tremendous increase in Imperialism’s hatred for the GDR, particularly in West Germany. It tried to do damage to us wherever possible. Our enemies particularly used the open border with West Berlin. That was not enough for them. Imperialism planned a war. Their plans were recognized in time. In agreement with the Soviet Union and the other states of the Warsaw Pact, we put an end to the West’s plans on 13 August 1961. We closed our borders.’

Source: *Trommel (‘The Drum’)*, weekly magazine for elementary school children in the GDR, [German Propaganda Archive](#)

*Much of the material is written by school children. This extract, from an article on the 25th anniversary of the Warsaw Pact, appears on p. 5 of Issue #16/1980. It includes a map showing US bases surrounding the Soviet Union, and notes the benefits of the Berlin Wall.*

- Which conflict does each of these extracts talk about?
- How would you define the type of language used?
- What are the differences and similarities between the different texts?