

Class 11 English Two Little Soldiers Chapter Summary

This short story "Two Little Soldiers" by Guy de Maupassant is a tale of a love triangle with a surprising ending. It explores the compatibility of friendship and romantic love amidst change, discontent, conflict, betrayal, and jealousy. The story is set in Courbevoie, a town on the outskirts of Paris in the French countryside. The main characters are two French soldiers named Luc Le Ganidec and Jean Kerderen.

Every Sunday, Luc and Jean spent their day off in a little wood located at the end of Bezons. During their journey towards Bezons, they would walk quickly without speaking and stop for a few minutes at Bezons's bridge to enjoy the river Seine and its white surging sails. They would buy provisions like bread and wine from stores before crossing the village to reach the little forest that reminded them of their homeland. Away from the noise of the town, they enjoyed the peaceful environment.

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One day, they met a young milkmaid who was taking her cow to the pastor to milk. They talked, and the milkmaid promised to meet them the following Sunday. When they met her again, Jean suggested they give her a present. They bought bonbons, but they were too shy to tell her. Finally, Luc revealed the present, and the milkmaid was pleased. They became friends, and the milkmaid provided them with breakfast items during their meetings.

Luc started leaving the barracks for hours at a time, borrowing money from Jean but offering no explanation for his absences. The milkmaid became more attached to Luc, embracing and kissing him while ignoring Jean. Jean became jealous and heartbroken, realizing his feelings for the milkmaid and the truth behind Luc's absences. When they returned to the barracks, Jean leaned too far over the bridge's railing and fell into the river. Luc called for help, but Jean's body disappeared into the water. His body was found later that day by boatmen.

Luc was devastated and informed their barracks of Jean's accident. The story ends with Luc visiting Jean's grave every Sunday in the little wood where they used to spend their day off.