

WW1 Poetry

Task One

Explain your thoughts and feelings when you see the following flower. Write a minimum of four full sentences.



Task Two

Read the following poem, aloud, in pairs. Select a word or phrase from each stanza (verse) which stands out to you, and explain to your partner why you have chosen it:

**In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.**

**We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Fields.**

**Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders Fields.**

(John McCrae)

Task Three

Answer the following questions about the poem you have just read.

1. What is the poem about?
2. Who is the speaker in the poem? Whose voice can we hear? Hint: look at line 6.
3. What did the men being discussed experience before they died? How does it make you feel about their death? Explain your views using words from the poem to show how you formed this view.

4. The poem here has no title. Write your idea for a title in your exercise book, and explain why you made this choice.

Task Four

Keyword: Imagery – the descriptive language used within a book or a poem to paint an image in a reader’s head.

Select the most effective and powerful imagery from each stanza. Copy it into your exercise book, and select one illustration – make sure it links with what *you* see in your mind – to sketch below it.

Task Five

Select your level of challenge!

Level 4 Challenge Task

Below your illustration, explain how it makes you feel. Remember to use the words from the poem to help you explain your view.

Level 5 Challenge Task

Below your illustration, explain how it would make the relative of a dead soldier feel. Remember to use the words from the poem to help you explain your view.

Level 6 Challenge Task

Can you spot any of the following poetic techniques in the poem?

Alliteration Rhyme Structure (short or long sentences for effect)

Select one or more to write about. Explain how it adds to the meaning of the poem. How does it draw your attention to particular words or phrases? What is the impact upon the reader?

Final Activity

Link your work today back to our first task. Why is the Poppy such an important symbol?