

WORLD WAR I

Activity # 5 “The Poppy: A Symbol For Remembrance” (Responding to a war poem, *In Flanders Fields*)

1. There are three copies of the book, *In Flanders Fields*, at this station. Open the book at the title page and find the following information about this very famous war poem:

The full title of the book is _____
_____.

The author of this book is _____

and _____ is the illustrator of this book.

According to the title of the book, the original author of the poem, *In Flanders Fields*,
is _____.

What is the copyright date for this book? Check the title page (or verso) for this
Information. _____
(Date)

2. (a) Find the original poem, *In Flanders Fields*, in the handwriting of the poet (on the page following the title page.) Read the poem out loud in your group and note the *decorative illustration* that forms a border around the writing. Answer these questions:

- Have you heard or read this poem before? _____ (yes or no)

- If *yes*, then tell where you read or heard the poem. _____

- Describe (or draw) the border decoration here:

(b) Now, examine the booklet, John McCrae” which is also located at this station. (There are four copies of this booklet.) You will find the same hand-written copy of the original poem on the first page of the booklet. This is followed by informative text and photographs. Refer to page 2 to complete the following sentences.

- John McCrae was born in _____ on _____.
(Place) (Date)

- “In Flanders Fields,” the original war poem, was *first* published in _____ in _____.
(Date) (Title of the Publication)

(c) Skim pages 7 to 10 of this booklet to answer these questions.

- What did McCrae take with him in 1915 when he was posted to Flanders?”

- Where exactly is “Flanders?”

- *When* and *how* did John McCrae die?

3. The new book contains much more than the war poem, *In Flanders Fields...* Take some time now to skim the entire book (including the actual poem and all other writing and illustrations.)

(a) Describe the quality of the full page illustrations that accompany each line of the poem and their effectiveness in this book.

(b) List the other types of writing (other than poetry) and illustration (other than the full page pictures used for the lines of the poem) that are found throughout this book.

Information in the Book

(List other examples informative writing, illustration.) (Tell where these are located in the book.)

(c) How does this additional information (as you listed above!) enhance or improve this book?

4. What motivated John McCrae, the Canadian medical officer, to write the poem, *In Flanders Fields* ? (Use either source - the book or the booklet for this!)

5. Choose one or two pages of the illustrated poem (from the book) that had the greatest effect on you, the reader. Tell in your own words why you chose this/these page(s) and how the *words and pictures* affected you.

I chose... (Write the line or lines from the poem):

because... (Tell *why* you chose the line or lines):

6. Now turn to the information pages located after the final verse of the poem and list three additional facts about the poppy and how it has become a symbol of life and hope.

Three Facts About the Poppy:

1.
2.
3.

7. What does the poppy mean to you? Reflect on your own experience and knowledge in your answer!
