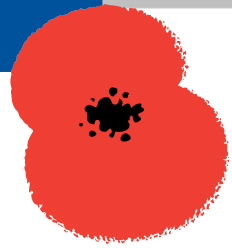


## Remembrance

Five assemblies to follow the theme of Remembrance for one week  
The assembly on Day five can be used as a stand-alone assembly



## DAY 2: THE POPPY

### In preparation:

- The Royal British Legion CD Rom, for pictures and poetry to project on the screen.
- Screen

### Start

*Show one of the pictures of a Poppy from the CD Rom – The pictures ‘The Royal British Legion’ has plenty.*

### Script:

What is this a picture of? We saw this symbol yesterday, do you remember why?

It is a symbol of Remembrance – that means it helps us to remember something.

Do you wear a Poppy?

The Poppy is a very special symbol that reminds of something very particular. It is the symbol of Remembrance Day. Remembrance Day is the day for us to remember all the people who have fought, been killed, have been injured or had their lives affected by war.

Do you know why the Poppy was chosen? Let me read you a poem:

### In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae

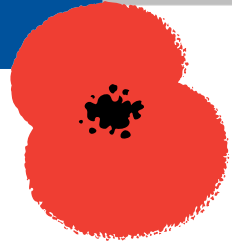
In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

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.

## Remembrance

Five assemblies to follow the theme of Remembrance for one week  
The assembly on Day five can be used as a stand-alone assembly



That poem was written after the First World War. In the fields where the war was fought, the only thing that would grow was the poppy. The red petals reminded people of the awful suffering that had happened but the Poppy as a flower also reminded people of the importance of life.

The poem was written by a Canadian Doctor, John McCrae who had been in the First World War and saw the poppies growing. The Poppy inspired people who believed that those who had fought should not be forgotten and they started to wear a poppy at the time of the anniversary of the end of the war.

Now we wear the Poppy every year to remember all the people who have fought and been affected by war. The Royal British Legion was created to help the veterans who returned from the First World War and their families. The Legion still uses the Poppy as a symbol of Remembrance and Poppies are still used to raise funds for British ex-Service men and women and their families.

### Moment of reflection

The Poppy is a symbol that we can all wear and that can help us all to remember the horrors of war; to think about and hope for those people who fight in them and those people who are affected by them. The Poppy can help us to remember how important peace is.

### Prayer or Poem:

### Why Wear a Poppy

by Don Crawford

“Please wear a poppy,” the lady said,  
And held one forth, but I shook my head,  
Then I stopped and watched as she offered them there,  
And her face was old and lined with care;

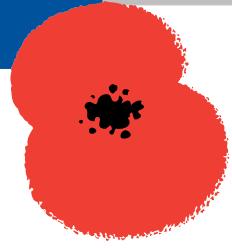
But beneath the scars the years had made  
There remained a smile that refused to fade.  
A boy came whistling down the street,  
Bouncing along on care-free feet.

His smile was full of joy and fun,  
“Lady,” said he, “may I have one?”  
When she’d pinned it on, he turned to say;  
“Why do we wear a poppy today?”

The lady smiled in her wistful way  
And answered; “This is Remembrance Day.  
And the poppy there is a symbol for  
The gallant men who died in war.

## Remembrance

Five assemblies to follow the theme of Remembrance for one week  
The assembly on Day five can be used as a stand-alone assembly



And because they did, you and I are free -  
That's why we wear a poppy, you see.  
I had a boy about your size,  
With golden hair and big blue eyes.

He loved to play and jump and shout,  
Free as a bird, he would race about.  
As the years went by, he learned and grew,  
And became a man - as you will, too.

He was fine and strong, with a boyish smile,  
But he'd seemed with us such a little while  
When war broke out and he went away.  
I still remember his face that day.

When he smiled at me and said, 'Goodbye,  
I'll be back soon, Mum, please don't cry.'  
But the war went on and he had to stay,  
And all I could do was wait and pray.

His letters told of the awful fight  
(I can see it still in my dreams at night),  
With the tanks and guns and cruel barbed wire,  
And the mines and bullets, the bombs and fire.

Till at last, at last, the war was won -  
And that's why we wear a poppy, son."  
The small boy turned as if to go,  
Then said: "Thanks, lady, I'm glad to know.

I slunk away in a sort of shame,  
And if you were me, you'd have done the same:  
For our thanks, in giving, if oft delayed,  
Though our freedom was bought - and thousands paid!

And so, when we see a poppy worn,  
Let us reflect on the burden borne  
By those who gave their very all  
When asked to answer their country's call  
That we at home in peace might live.  
Then wear a poppy! Remember - and Give!