

This series of assemblies for Key Stages 1 and 2 has a couple of days repeated from the first series but with a new assembly for Day 1 (for slightly older groups) and Day 4 and some changes to Day 2. Day 4 can be used as a stand-alone assembly as can the one listed for Day 5. If you want to learn about Remembrance over three mornings up until Remembrance day use Day 2, 4 and 5 assemblies



DAY 4: WHO WE ARE REMEMBERING

In preparation:

- The Royal British Legion CD Rom
- Screen
- In this assembly any of the poets from the selection from the First World War on the CD can be selected and the script simply adapted as an example Isaac Rosenberg and Wilfred Owen have been selected here.

Start

Show the pictures of some of the poets from the section 'Soldier Poets of the First World War'

Script

Do you recognise any of these people?

These are Soldiers who fought in the First World War, - they are also poets.

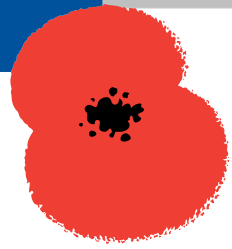
The First world War introduced something called 'conscription' – which meant that men of a certain age could be called up to fight regardless of what their job was. The First World War was also a war where the Government encouraged all men to join the army even if they had other jobs.

Both of those things meant that there were men of lots of different backgrounds and skills who fought and were injured or killed.

The war effected lots of people and many of those who fought wrote about their experiences – 2 of these were Isaac Rosenberg and Wilfred Owen who both fought for Britain in the war. Their poems helped the public in Britain to understand what they experience of fighting in the trenches was like.

Isaac Rosenberg

Isaac Rosenberg was born in Bristol and grew up in the East End of London. In 1915, he enlisted and in 1916 and was killed at the front on April 3, 1918.



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In The Trenches (1916) **by Isaac Rosenberg**

I snatched two poppies
From the parapet's ledge,
Two bright red poppies
That winked on the ledge.
Behind my ear
I stuck one through,
One blood red poppy
I gave to you.
The sandbags narrowed
And screwed out our jest,
And tore the poppy
You had on your breast ...
Down - a shell - O! Christ,
I am choked ... safe ... dust blind, I
See trench floor poppies
Strewn. Smashed you lie.

Wilfred Owen

Owen was injured in March 1917 and sent home; he was fit for duty in August, 1918, and returned to the front. November 4, just seven days before the Armistice, he was caught in a German machine gun attack and killed. He was twenty-five when he died.

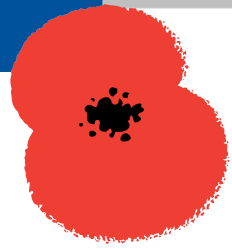
Anthem for a Doomed Youth **by Wilfred Owen**

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?
Only the monstrous anger of the guns.
Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle
Can patter out their hasty orisons.
No mockeries for them; no prayers nor bells,
Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs, --
The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;
And bugles calling for them from sad shires.

What candles may be held to speed them all?
Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes
Shall shine the holy glimmers of goodbyes.
The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;
Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,
And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.

Before 1919 servicemen and civilians were not remembered unless they were important or officers – The First World War changed that because so many ordinary people had gone to fight. All across the country war memorials appeared – mainly paid for by local communities so that they would not forget the individuals – the real people.

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Select one of the case studies from the Second World War or the one of Rifleman Yubraj Rai students to read them out..

Today men and women continue to take part in and be affected by conflict. It is just as important today that we remember their names as it was 90 years ago. After all we are in a society that is relatively peaceful and that is partly due to the sacrifice that others have made.

Moment of reflection

It is sometimes difficult to think of something as horrible as war producing beautiful poetry, but the poetry helps us to understand the horrible experience of war. Although the poetry is often sad it reminds us of what it must have been like to have lived in the conditions that those poets did. It reminds us that those who fight in far away places are still real people who feel and think just like we do.

Poem or prayer

At A War Grave by John Jarman

No grave is rich, the dust that herein lies
Beneath this white cross mixing with the sand
Was vital once, with skill of eye and hand
And speed of brain. These will not re-arise
These riches, nor will they be replaced;
They are lost and nothing now, and here is left
Only a worthless corpse of sense bereft,
Symbol of death, and sacrifice and waste.

John Jarman was an officer in the Second World War and was killed during the Battle for Normandy in 1944.