

## English – Monday 9th November

Watch the clips below to research the famous WWI Poem 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/flanders-field/zf9g92p>

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/about-remembrance/in-flanders-field>

**Choose some or all of the following tasks to complete:**

**Task 1:** Practise reading the poem with expression and then perform it to someone at home.

### In Flanders Fields

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.

by John McCrae

**Task 2:** Answer these questions in full sentences explaining your reasoning.

- 1) Who is supposed to be talking in this poem?
- 2) What can hardly be heard and why?
- 3) What does the statement “We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow” mean?
- 4) Who is the foe?
- 5) “To you from failing hands we throw, The Torch; be yours to hold it high!”  
Describe what this line means.
- 6) Why do you think this poem is still so well-known today?
- 7) What do you think the message of the poem is?

**Task 3:** Create a digital slideshow of images from a range of sources to illustrate a poem of your own choice by another poet of the First World War.

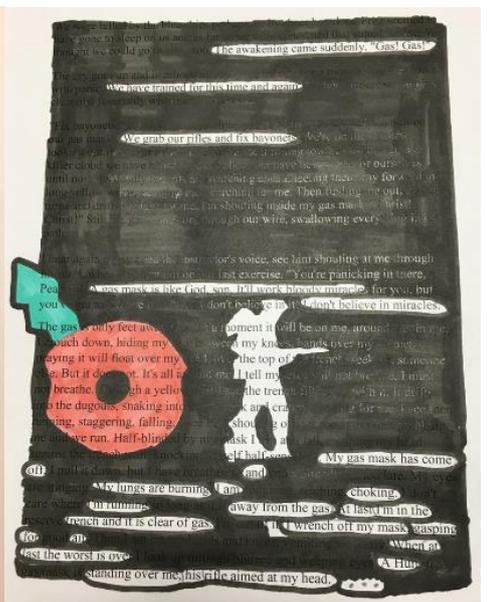
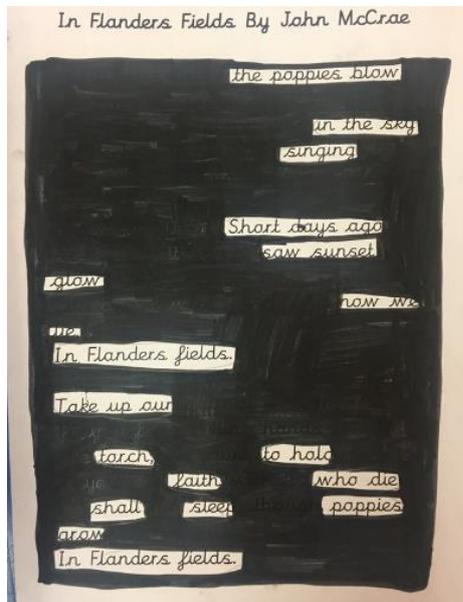
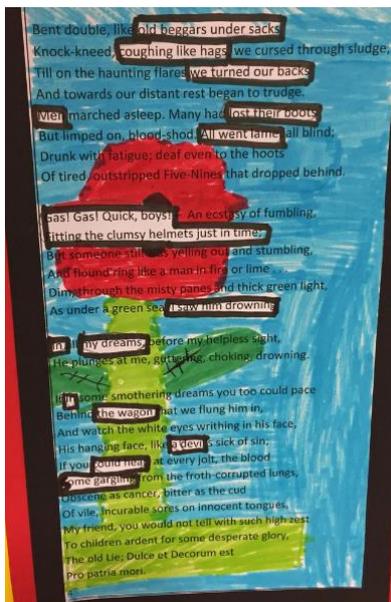
**Task 4:** Create a ‘Blackout Poem’ using the text from a WWI poem (we have included a selection on the next pages but you could choose your own)

**Blackout Poetry** is a form of “found poetry” where you select words that catch your interest from a newspaper, book, or other printed text – along with a few additional words to make it flow. Then you “redact” all the words you *don’t want*. This is often (but not always) done with a black marker, hence the name “blackout poetry”. Your chosen words will form a new message, giving the text a whole new meaning.

The website below will give you more helpful hints and tips.

<https://www.teachkidsart.net/the-art-of-blackout-poetry/>

These are some examples of other children’s work which might inspire you.



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grow  
In Flanders' Fields.

by John McCrae

## We Shall Keep the Faith

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,  
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!  
We caught the torch you threw  
And holding high, we keep the Faith  
With All who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red  
That grows on fields where valor led;  
It seems to signal to the skies  
That blood of heroes never dies,  
But lends a lustre to the red  
Of the flower that blooms above the dead  
In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red  
We wear in honor of our dead.  
Fear not that ye have died for naught;  
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought  
In Flanders Fields.

by Moina Michael

## The Soldier

If I should die, think only this of me:

That there's some corner of a foreign field

That is for ever England. There shall be

In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;

A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,

Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam;

A body of England's, breathing English air,

Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,

A pulse in the eternal mind, no less

Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England  
given;

Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;

And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,

In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

By Rupert Brooke