



## Key Stage 3&4 Assemblies

### Remembrance past and present - Remembrance, then and now

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#### In preparation:

- A poppy
- Choose two pieces of film, one from the World War Two section of the DVD and one from the Afghanistan section.
- From the Remembrance DVD the film the Legion and Remembrance.

#### Script

This is the poppy and we wear a poppy to remember those whose lives have been affected by wars and active Service.

These poppies often gave people a sense of hope - even after life seemed to be destroyed on the battlefield this little flower had managed to survive.

Even at a terrible time flowers can give you hope.

After the war was over some people just wanted to forget about it, but because so many people had been involved more people wanted it to be remembered. They didn't want those killed and injured to be forgotten, and they also hoped that if people remembered how bad war was it might not happen again.

Because the poppy had grown on the battlefields of Western Europe where so many men had fought it was adopted as a symbol. A symbol of hope, that those who had fought would be remembered by future generations. They hoped that that sacrifice would not have been in vain.

It was the anniversary of the First World War that made people want to share in their reflection of what the war had cost people. Although families who had someone killed or hurt might think about their loss every day it was felt that there should be one time each year that everyone in Britain would think about those men and women and the families. It was decided that the day would be the anniversary of when the fighting had stopped.

That day is 11 November, and the fighting stopped at 11 o'clock in the morning. So at 11 o'clock on the 11th day of the 11th month of the year we wear a poppy to think about those men and women.

The day is called Remembrance Day and on that day important things happen.

People hold an act of Remembrance. At an act of Remembrance a number of things can happen – poems can be read, so can names, letters, or anything that enables people to remember these people and what they went through.

The main two things that happen are the reading of the Exhortation and then a Two Minute Silence.

The exhortation is a poem:

“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.”

The act of Remembrance that I have just described happens all over the country on the 11 November, and then again on Remembrance Sunday.

But is it just the First World War that is remembered?

*Show the film on World War Two.*

After World War Two many communities decided to make Remembrance Day about that conflict as well. Now Remembrance day and the poppy is about remembering, thinking about and showing respect for all those affected by conflict from the First World War until today.

That includes the Service men and women who fought recently in Iraq and Afghanistan, or are on active Service all over the world. We also need to think about their families, as they are the ones who suffer if that person is killed or injured.

During World Wars One and Two lots of people were killed and even more were injured, often very badly. Many returned home injured in ways that prevented them from working or doing normal everyday things. In modern wars the military medical teams are well trained to save those who are injured, but they still can have terrible injuries. Others can suffer from the experience of seeing friends and civilians killed - being in a war is a traumatic experience. Those men and women and their families sometimes need help. People injured in Afghanistan might need help and support because of their injuries for another 60 years.

*Show the film from Afghanistan, or go straight to the film on the Legion and Remembrance.*

So since the First World War the poppies have raised money to help those people whose lives have been changed by war.

### **Moment of Reflection**

There has been only one year since World War Two with no British deaths on active Service. That means that whether we are aware of it or not people in our Armed Forces are risking their lives for their country. Many more end up injured, and they will carry the burden and memory of their Service for the rest of their lives. For all of those people, let us spend one day a year reflecting on that sacrifice and hope that the next generation will do something to make the future peaceful.

### **Poem or Prayer**

Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967) was born into a wealthy family in Kent on 8 September 1886. He survived the war having fought in many battles, but he lost many friends who he mourned for the rest of his life.

### **Does it Matter?**

Does it matter?—losing your legs?...  
For people will always be kind,  
And you need not show that you mind  
When the others come in after hunting  
To gobble their muffins and eggs.  
Does it matter?—losing your sight?...  
There's such splendid work for the blind;  
And people will always be kind,  
As you sit on the terrace remembering  
And turning your face to the light.  
Do they matter?—those dreams from the pit?...  
You can drink and forget and be glad,  
And people won't say that you're mad;  
For they'll know you've fought for your country  
And no one will worry a bit.