

SAMPLE PAGES. PLEASE DO NOT COPY!

Remembering on Memorial Day

By Lois Walker

This is a short Readers Theater piece designed to be read-aloud at a Memorial Day School Assembly.

The script involves 4 solo readers and a CHORUS that can be made up of as many or as few other student readers as you wish. The reading can be easily staged with the 4 readers placed centre (or slightly off-centre) stage behind microphones and music stands (to hold their scripts) and the chorus off to one side or on risers behind the readers.

The chorus lines in this piece are just as important as the solo reader lines, so rehearsals will be needed to help the chorus members speak clearly, in unison, and with feeling. You may want to appoint someone to direct the chorus as is done in a choral reading performance. Chorus members will hold their scripts during the performance. You might want to place each script in light-weight folders of the same colour.

All solo readers and chorus members will wear poppies, if possible.

If an overhead projector and screen are available, you might project the lines from "In Flanders Field" as the Chorus speaks them. Each time the Chorus speaks, the new lines would be added to the screen until the entire poem is seen.

READER 1: The last Monday in May is a very special holiday here in the United States.

READER 2: It is a holiday of celebration and remembering!

READER 3: Its purpose is to honor members of the military who died in service to our country.

READER 4: And so, each year in the spring...

READER 1: ...when spring flowers are blooming all around...

READER 2: we Americans celebrate "Memorial Day" by decorating military graves and wearing red poppies.

READER 3: We remember the thousands and thousands of men and women...

READER 4: ...who have sacrificed their lives in military service.

**CHORUS: "In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row"**

READER 1: We remember *all* our service men and women -
those who died during the First and Second World
Wars,

READER 2: in Viet Nam, Korea and Afghanistan...

READER 3: And many other places around the globe.

**CHORUS: "That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly."**

READER 4: During World War I, a Canadian physician named
John McCrae...

READER 1: Saw poppy flowers growing beside a grave of his
close friend who had died in battle.

READER 2: So he wrote a poem called "In Flanders Field"...

READER 3: And it has become one of the most famous war-time
poems ever written!

CHORUS: **"Scarce heard amid the guns below.**

We are the Dead. Short days ago

We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,

Loved, and were loved...

READER 4: In 1915 the poem "In Flanders Fields" inspired
American Moina Michael to write her own war-time
poem. She wrote:

READERS 1/2/3/4:

(in unison)

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!

READER 1: She then decided it might be a good idea to wear red
poppies on Memorial day to symbolize the red blood
of heroes who had died serving in the war.

READER 2: She was the very first person to wear one...

READER 3: ...and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers -
with the money going to benefit servicemen in need.

READER 4: Because of these two poems, the poppy was soon
adopted as "The Flower of Remembrance"...

READER 1: ...In the United States, in Canada, France, Britain and
the Commonwealth countries.

READER 2: And Americans have been wearing poppies on
Memorial Day for over 90 years!

CONTINUED...

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