



Grades 1 - 8 Bundle



JOHN MCCRAE

CANADIANS REMEMBER



JOHN MCCRAE

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LEARNING STANDARDS

Learning Standards describe what students should know, be able to do, and understand by the end of each grade. Learning standards frame the important competencies/expectations and big ideas for each grade. Lessons in this bundle address the following standards:

VISUAL ARTS

- Apply the creative process to produce works of art using the elements, principles and techniques of visual arts to communicate feelings, ideas, and understandings.
- Use the critical analysis process to describe, interpret and respond to works of art.

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Listen to understand and respond appropriately.
- Use speaking skills and strategies appropriately to communicate.
- Read and demonstrate an understanding of texts.
- Write for an intended purpose.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Develop an understanding of cultural and national identities and how they contribute to Canadian heritage.
- Develop a sense of personal identity.

LOOKING AT ART



Have students use SEEK™ to help organize their thinking and build their observational skills. Guide them to support their ideas with evidence they see in the artwork.

SEE – Look closely at the image for about a minute. What do you see?

EVIDENCE – What do you see that makes you say that?

EXPLAIN – What choices did the artist make? How did those choices help communicate the message?

KNOW – What do you know about the artist's intent? What else do you want to know?

Why is John McCrae important?

John McCrae is best known for writing the poem **In Flanders Fields** in 1915 during World War I. The poem is about the soldiers who died in battle and the red poppies that grew in the fields where they were buried. The poem is often recited on Remembrance Day - November 11, to honour soldiers who have fought and died in wars.

McCrae wrote the poem while he was in Belgium, near a place called Flanders, where many battles took place. He wrote it after seeing the graves of soldiers and the red poppies growing around them. The poem talks about the bravery of the soldiers who fought, and how the living should continue to remember them and carry on the fight for freedom.

Every year on Remembrance Day, Canadians wear red poppies to remember the soldiers who fought and died in wars. This tradition comes from McCrae's poem, where he described the poppies growing on soldiers' graves. His poem has become a symbol of peace, remembrance, and honoring those who served their country.

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.

In Flanders Fields

Work in a small group. Listen to the poem at [Leonard Cohen recites "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae](#)

Then read the poem together and discuss the following questions.

Write a group response for each question.

1. Why do you think John McCrae talks about poppies?

2. What do you think the crosses in the poem mean?

3. In the second part of the poem, the soldiers say they 'used to feel dawn, see sunsets, and love others'. What do you think they mean by this?

4. In the last part, the soldiers talk about passing a torch. What do you think that means?

5. Why do we remember the soldiers who died in wars?

Names: _____

Date: _____



JOHN MCCRAE

Soldier Surgeon Poet

Have you ever wondered why people wear poppies on Remembrance Day? It all began with a Canadian soldier who liked to write poetry.

John McCrae was born in Guelph, Ontario, in 1872. He is famous for writing the poem 'In Flanders Fields'. John McCrae was both a doctor and a soldier during World War I. He helped take care of wounded soldiers on the battlefield. He was so sad after one of his close friends died in battle that he wrote a poem. He didn't know it was going to become so famous. He just knew it was a way to express his feelings about the war and the death of his friend.

Belgium is one of the smallest countries in Europe. It is bordered by France, the Netherlands and Germany. Flanders is a region in Belgium. After the battles of World War I, especially in Flanders, many soldiers were buried in the fields. The soil had been broken up by the fighting, and red poppies started to grow around the soldiers' graves. These bright red flowers stood out against the battlefield. In May 1915, after a brutal battle, McCrae noticed the red poppies growing in the fields where soldiers were buried. The flowers inspired him to write his famous poem. In the poem he talks about the bravery of soldiers and the red poppies. McCrae's poem has become a symbol of peace, remembrance, and honouring those who served their country. On Remembrance Day Canadians wear red poppies to remember the soldiers who fought and died in wars. This tradition comes from McCrae's poem.

Madame Anna Guérin from France, and Moina Michael, a teacher from America became famous for promoting the red poppy as a symbol of remembrance after World War I. Madame Guérin played a big part in making sure that the red poppy became a **global** symbol of remembrance. Without her, the poppy might not be as widely recognized as it is around the world on Remembrance Day. Madame Guérin and Moina Michael worked together to turn the poppy into a lasting reminder of the bravery and sacrifices of soldiers, helping us honour their memory each year.

Learn more about John McCrae at the following links:

[Leonard Cohen recites "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae](#)

[The Story Behind John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields" poem](#)

[The Life of John McCrae](#)

JOHN MCCRAE

Fill in the missing information.

1. John McCrae was a _____
 2. He fought in _____ in _____
 3. The war made him feel _____
 4. He wrote a famous _____ titled _____
 5. He was inspired by _____
 6. Poppies grew among the _____
 7. His poem talks about _____ and _____
 8. The poppy became a symbol of _____
 9. Madame Guinn helped make the poppy a _____ symbol.
 10. John McCrae's poem has become a symbol of _____
-

bravery	so sad	poem	soldiers' graves
red poppies	global	soldier, doctor, and poet	
remembrance	World War I	poppies	Flanders, Belgium
peace and remembrance		In Flanders Fields	

Name: _____ Date: _____



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THE NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL



The National War Memorial, in Ottawa, Ontario was originally built in 1939 to honour the soldiers who died in World War I. Over the years, it has been updated to honour the bravery and sacrifices of Canadian soldiers who fought in other wars. It's a place where people go to remember the soldiers, especially on Remembrance Day. The symbolism in the memorial tells the story of Canadian bravery and sacrifice.

The monument has a large arch made of stone. It symbolizes a gateway between life and death, showing the soldiers' journey as they march forward. There are 22 figures under the arch, representing different branches of the military – soldiers, sailors, airmen, and nurses. Each figure is in motion to symbolize action and service. At the very top of the arch there

are two figures representing Peace and Freedom to remind us of what the soldiers were fighting for.

In front of the National War Memorial is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This tomb holds the remains of a Canadian soldier who died in World War I and was never identified. The tomb represents all the soldiers who died in battle and were never found or identified.

The memorial is a place to honour the bravery and sacrifice of Canadian soldiers who fought in wars, especially those who died. The figures show different kinds of people in the military, reminding us that people from all walks of life served Canada during times of war. The most important event at the memorial is the Remembrance Day ceremony. On November 11, many people, including government leaders, soldiers, veterans, and citizens, gather to remember the soldiers who died. People place wreaths and poppies at the memorial to show their respect for the soldiers.

The National War Memorial is important because it helps us remember the sacrifices soldiers made to protect freedom and peace in Canada and around the world. It's a place where people can reflect and show their gratitude to all the soldiers who have served Canada.

Image: I, Padraic Ryan, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

4. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier sits in front of the memorial. What do you think it represents?



U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

5. Why do you think they built this memorial?

6. If you had a family member who fought in the war what would it mean to you to visit a memorial such as this? Why?

Name: _____

Date: _____

REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPY



Benoit Aubry, CC BY 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

The poppy became a symbol of Remembrance Day because of John McCrae's haunting poem, *In Flanders Fields*. In the poem he describes how the poppies grew among the graves of fallen soldiers. They symbolized both the tragedy of war and the resilience of nature. The vivid red poppies came to represent the blood shed by soldiers, as well as hope and renewal.

The poem really spoke to Moina Michael, an American professor. In 1918 she began wearing a poppy to honour those who died in war. She encouraged others to wear them too. Before long, people in America started wearing poppies as a symbol of remembrance. Madame Anna Guérin, a French humanitarian, heard about Moina Michael's poppy campaign. She decided to bring the idea to Europe. In 1921, she encouraged the use of artificial poppies to raise money for veterans and war victims.

Guérin's efforts led to the adoption of the poppy as the official symbol of remembrance. She is sometimes referred to as the 'Poppy Lady'. Her work spread the poppy as a symbol of remembrance across the world. Moina Michael and Madame Anna Guérin both played important roles in making the poppy a symbol of remembrance. Together, inspired by John McCrae's poem, they established the poppy as a lasting symbol to honour those who died in war.

Each year in Canada, millions of poppies are sold in the lead-up to Remembrance Day. The Royal Canadian Legion organizes the poppy campaign and distributes around 20 million poppies each year. These poppies are worn by Canadians to honour soldiers who have died in wars. The money raised goes toward supporting veterans and their families.

Watch this video to learn more about the Canadian Remembrance Day poppy. [Why wear a poppy? CBC Kids](#)

REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPY



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REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPY

Someone who really knew how to appreciate the beauty and complexity of poppies was Georgia O'Keeffe. She was a very influential American artist famous for her paintings of flowers. 'Red Poppy' is so famous it is even on a postage stamp. You can see it for yourself at this link [32c Georgia O'Keefe single](#)

O'Keeffe's poppy paintings are celebrated for their dramatic close-up views that reveal intricate details and bold, vibrant colours. The flower invites the viewer to reflect on life, beauty, and the fragility of existence.



CREATE an oil pastel drawing of a poppy inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe's style. Include appropriate text on the drawing to draw attention to Remembrance Day.



PRESENT your drawing to a small group of your peers. Describe what you like best about your work and why. Share how you decided on the text. Explain your process and how you feel it worked out. Describe one thing you would want to improve upon and why.



RESPOND to your classmates' drawings. Describe what you think is especially well done and explain why. Talk about the technical skills demonstrated, such as the blending of colours and overall composition. Respond to the text. How does it encourage you to remember the sacrifices made by soldiers over the years? Share any suggestions you may have.



CONNECT how the Remembrance Day poppies we wear get us to think about the soldiers who sacrificed their lives, with what Georgia O'Keeffe's enlarged poppy paintings get us to think about. What big ideas do Remembrance Day poppies get us to think about? What big ideas do O'Keeffe's paintings get us to think about? How does seeing a poppy, whether a Remembrance Day poppy or a painting of a poppy, make you feel? How do symbols influence the way you reflect on important ideas?

REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPY

You will need:

- Crayola Black Construction Paper
- Crayola Sketchbooks
- Crayola Oil Pastels
- Pencils & Erasers

1



1. View the painting *Red Caana*, by Georgia O'Keeffe.
2. Notice how she uses colour and space.
 - close-up view
 - cropped image
 - gently rounded corners
 - bright, bold colour
 - colours glow
3. Make a plan drawing inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe's ideas, and images of real poppies.

2



1. Use a pencil to outline the main shapes of your poppy on a piece of black construction paper.
2. Blend warm colours of oil pastel to create glowing petals.
 - red
 - red-orange
 - orange
 - yellow-orange

3



1. Add text to the drawing.
2. View your work with fresh eyes.
3. How have you made Georgia O'Keeffe's style your own?

Red Caana, Georgia O'Keeffe, 1923



Georgia O'Keeffe, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Georgia O'Keeffe was a famous American artist born in 1887. She is known for her beautiful and colorful paintings. She loved to paint things from nature. What made her art special is that she painted these things in a way that made them look much bigger than in real life. Georgia O'Keeffe is best known for her large paintings of flowers. She painted flowers so big that it felt like you were seeing them up close. She wanted people to notice the beauty in small things, such as petals, that they might not usually pay attention to.

Georgia O'Keeffe is important because she helped change the way people thought about modern art. She didn't follow all the old rules of art but found her own way to express how she felt about the world. She was a real trailblazer, showing that women could be just as successful in the art world as men. You can view her Red Poppy painting on a commemorative stamp issued in 1996 at this link. [32c Georgia O'Keeffe single](#)

REMEMBRANCE DAY - Mixed Media

Have you ever wondered why so many people wear a poppy for Remembrance Day? John McCrae's poem, *In Flanders Fields*, really connected with people. In it he described how poppies grew among the graves of the fallen soldiers. It was such a strong image.

Soon the poppy became a symbol used to remember soldiers who have died in wars. People wear poppies to show that they remember and honour the soldiers who gave their lives in wars so that we could live in peace.



CREATE a mixed media Remembrance Day artwork. Use symbolism and a variety of materials to create a composition that will remind people to think about the sacrifice soldiers have made over the decades.



PRESENT your artwork to the class. Share the message you wanted to communicate and what you did to get your message across. Describe how you made choices about where to place different elements in your composition. Explain why you decided to use the words you chose. Tell how making this picture made you feel about Remembrance Day, and why.



RESPOND to your classmate's artwork. Describe one thing that stands out in your mind about Remembrance Day and how your peer's artwork connects with that idea. Ask about their creative process and share what you find interesting about their work.



CONNECT a time when you acted courageously, with how a soldier has to always be ready to act of bravely. How difficult is it to stand up for what is right? When does helping a friend take courage? Does it take courage to tackle a really difficult task and not give up? What do you think it means to be brave? Who do you know that lives their life bravely? How does thinking about bravery make you feel about soldiers? Why?

REMEMBRANCE DAY - Mixed Media

You will need:

- Crayola No-Run School Glue
- Crayola Washable Glue Sticks
- Crayola Paint Brushes
- Crayola Project Paint
- Crayola Construction Paper
- Green Masking Tape
- Plastic Placemats
- Water Containers
- Plastic Lids for Palettes
- Paper Towels
- Recycled Newspaper

1



1. Cut out a 22.9 cm x 30.5 cm (9" x 12") piece of newspaper.
3. Tape it to a plastic placemat.
4. Mix blue and yellow together to get a light green colour.
5. Add lots of water to a small amount of the colour.
6. Paint a thin wash of colour over the newspaper.
7. Set it aside to dry.

2



1. Tear small pieces of paper to make poppies.

3



1. Use a glue stick to glue each poppy together.

REMEMBRANCE DAY - Mixed Media

Artists use the **rule of thirds** to organize the key elements of their picture. This is a way to make the composition more dynamic and interesting. Imagine the picture plane divided into thirds, vertically and horizontally. Place key elements of your picture along or near these lines, or where they intersect.



4



1. Mix a variety of shades of green tempera paint.
2. Do not add water to the mixtures.
3. Paint lots of lines across the paper to add texture and variety.

5



1. Play with the arrangement of the poppies until you have a composition that you are satisfied with.
 - think of the rule of thirds when placing the poppies
 - pay attention to the negative spaces
 - let the poppies move your eye through the composition
2. Put a small dab of white glue on the centre of the back of the poppies and attach them to the paper.
3. Let the unglued edges of the poppies sit out from the paper so they cast a shadow.

6



1. Cut out letters from a magazine or the newspaper to add text to your composition.
2. Glue them in place.
3. When you are satisfied with everything gently remove the masking tape.
4. Mount the collage on a piece of contrasting construction paper and view it with fresh eyes.

REMEMBRANCE DAY - THANK YOU



Did you know that soldiers are people who work very hard to keep us safe? Soldiers help everyone in their country, even when it's hard. Sometimes soldiers are sent to other countries to help keep the peace. They are always ready to help here at home when there are big storms or fires. Soldiers are brave and strong. They love to help. We can thank them for all the things they do by writing letters. Soldiers love getting letters because it reminds them that people care about them, especially when they are far away from home.

View the video to learn more about Canadian soldiers.

[CAF - Remembrance Day K - 2](#)



CREATE a stencil print to use for a letter. Listen to John McCrae's poem 'In Flanders Fields'. What symbols does he talk about to help you understand about the soldiers? Use some of those symbols in your design. Write a message that will make a soldier feel happy.



PRESENT your letter to a small group. Share how you felt while writing your letter and making your design. How did you choose the symbols in your drawing? Describe what you like best about your finished work? Say what you would do differently next time. Explain why.



RESPOND to your classmate's letter. Describe one thing that stands out in your mind about the poem 'In Flanders Fields'. Explain how your peer's artwork connects with that idea. Share what you like best about their work. Describe how you would feel if you were a soldier and received the letter and say why. Thank your peer for sharing their work with the group.



CONNECT a time when you helped someone, with how soldiers help and protect others. How does it feel when you help someone? How does it feel when someone helps you? How does it feel when someone shows you gratitude for what you have done? Why is it important to show your gratitude for what soldiers and all community helpers do?

REMEMBRANCE DAY - THANK YOU

You will need:

- Crayola Broad Line Markers
- Crayola Regular Crayons
- Crayola Marker & Watercolour Paper
- Write On Transparency Film
- Green Masking Tape
- Small Pieces of Sponge
- Water Containers & Paper Towels

1



1. Use a marker to trace the outline of a poppy onto the plastic square.
2. Cut out the shape.
3. Roll a piece of masking tape with the sticky side facing **out**.
4. Place it on the back of the plastic shape.
5. Fasten the shape to the paper.
6. Use crayon to draw a scene around the shape.
7. Leave lots of the paper white.

2



1. Draw some marker around the outside edge of the plastic shape.

3



1. Dip a small piece of sponge into water.
2. Squeeze most of the water out of the sponge.
3. The sponge should be **damp** not wet.
4. Drag the damp sponge over the marker and onto the poppy shape.
5. Continue this way until the outer frame is complete.
6. Gently remove the plastic shape from the paper.

REMEMBRANCE DAY - THANK YOU

4



1. Use a ruler to lightly draw lines inside the poppy shape.
2. Write a rough draft of your letter.
3. Share your rough draft with a partner and make any changes.
4. Write your final copy in your best printing.

PARTS OF A LETTER

1. Heading

The heading is the date at the top of the letter. Example: September 30, 2024

2. Greeting

The greeting is how you say hello to the person you're writing to. It usually starts with Dear and is followed by the person's name. Example: Dear Soldier,

3. Body

The body is the main part of the letter. You can tell a story, ask a question, or say thank you. Example: Thank you for keeping us safe. I hope you are doing well!

4. Closing

The closing is where you wrap up your letter with a short phrase before signing your name. It's a polite way to say goodbye. Examples: Sincerely, Love, Your friend,

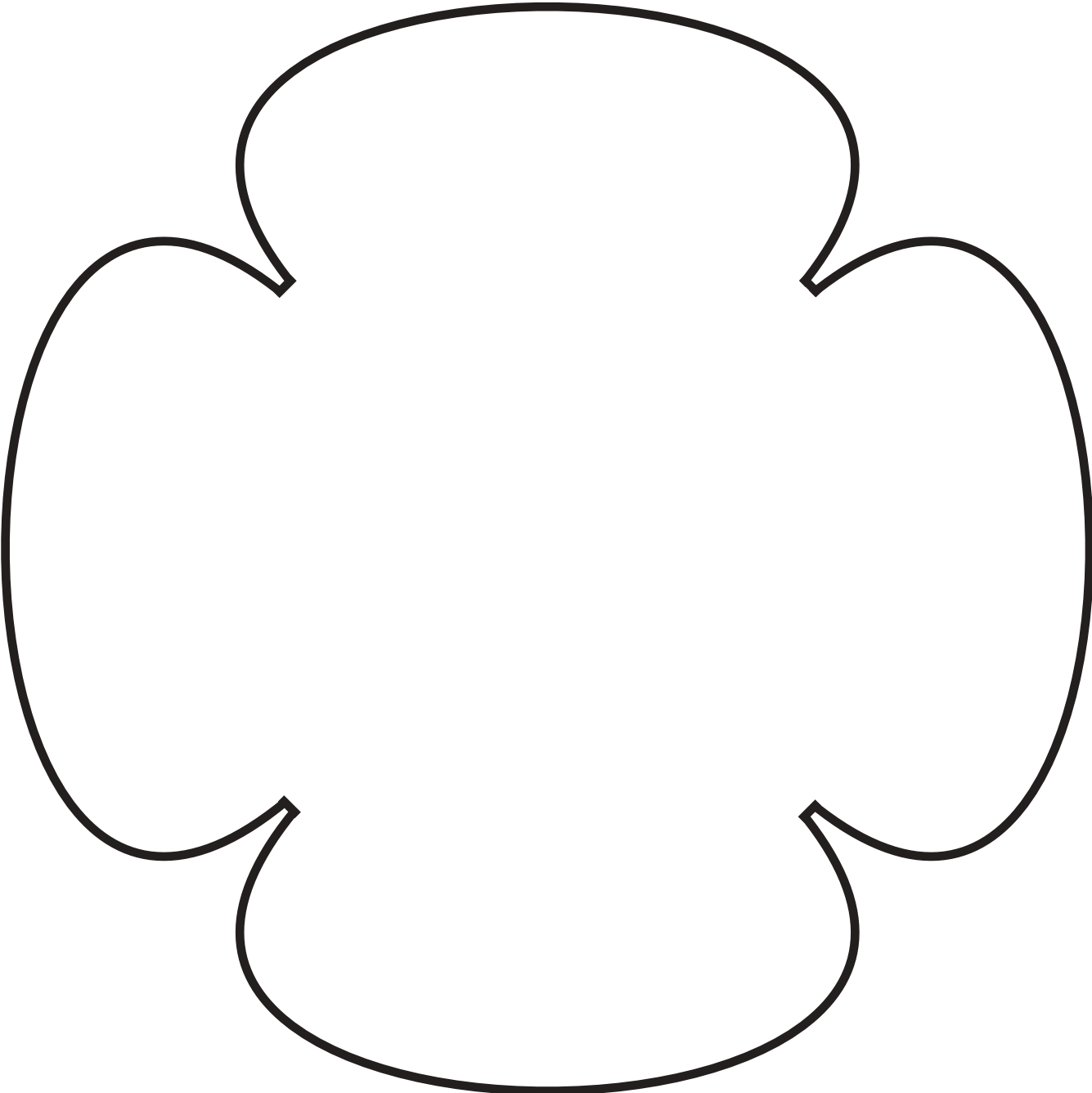
5. Signature

The signature is where you sign your name at the end of the letter. Example: Sincerely, Emily or Love, Max

6. Postscript (Optional)

A postscript (P.S.) is an extra note added at the end of a letter, usually for something you forgot to say or as a fun final thought. Example: P.S. I hope you have a great day!

REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPY STENCIL



BLACKOUT POETRY

Did you know you can create poetry by simply finding words that are already on the page? It's called blackout poetry and it's a lot of fun! As the story goes the artist/writer Austin Kleon was having writer's block one day so he started playing with the words in his newspaper. He chose words he liked and blacked out everything else. He made lots of poems and started to share them online. And just like that he started a movement. And then he discovered that people have been doing similar things for about 250 years!



Watch Kleon's Ted Talk video to learn more. [Steal Like an Artist](#)



CREATE a blackout poem using John McCrae's poem 'In Flanders Fields' as your text. Include drawings that connect with your message.



PRESENT your poem to a small group of your peers. Describe how you settled on the words you chose. Why did you choose certain words or phrases? What do those words mean to you? Talk about how your poem relates to the original poem. Explain how your poem makes you feel when you read it.



RESPOND to the your peer's poem. Begin by saying something positive about the visual impact of the poem. Describe how the poem makes you feel. Identify the words that help create the emotional tone of the poem. Discuss the way the blacked out design and added drawings enhance the meaning of the poem. Describe what you like best about the work and explain why.



CONNECT your process of making blackout poetry with the way you usually write poems in class. Did this process change the way you think about words, reading or creativity? How did blocking out words change the message of the original passage? How did the blackout poem you wrote affect the way you think about war and remembrance? Did this process inspire you to write more? What would you do differently next time?

BLACKOUT POETRY

You will need:

- Crayola Broad Line Markers
- Copy of In Flanders Fields Poem
- Pencils

1



1. Skim the poem.
2. Look for words or phrases that stand out to you.
3. Circle the words.
4. Write down the words in order in your notebook.
5. Read the words over a few times to see how they sound.
6. Cross out any words you don't want to keep.
7. Keep doing this until you are satisfied with your final poem.

2



1. Circle the words on your copy of the poem.
2. Draw some images that relate to your message.
3. Use markers to black out all the unwanted text.
4. Colour the images.

3



1. View your finished poem with fresh eyes.
2. How does your new poem express a different emotion or idea from the original?
3. How do the images you added to the text affect the message?

Elements of Art Booklet

Trim the paper along the lines at the outer edges. This will ensure the pages of the booklet line up properly.



1. Fold the paper in half and in half again, short end to short end. Open it up and fold it in half long end to long end. Open the paper. There should be 8 boxes.



3. Hold the edges. Cut from the FOLD side along the horizontal crease. Stop at the intersection of the vertical crease. Open the paper.



5. Flatten the paper.



2. Fold the paper in half short end to short end.



4. Fold the paper in half long end to long end. Hold the edges of the paper and push towards the centre until you see a box formed. Keep pushing until all the pages line up.



6. Fold it in half to create the booklet. Design a cover for your booklet.

CONTRAST

The juxtaposition of related and significantly different elements.

- LINE:** thick vs. thin
- SHAPE:** geometric vs. organic
- TEXTURE:** rough vs. smooth

CRAYOLA

PROPORTION

The spatial relationship of one object to another or to the whole.

- ENLARGED/REDUCED PROPORTION:** intentionally changing proportions to communicate a specific message

CRAYOLA

REPETITION

The repeated use of similar elements.

- LIMITED:** 1 or 2 repeated elements such as a visual echo
- NOTE:** a distinctive unit in a series such as a specific shape
- PATTERN:** recurring motifs in a predictable way

CRAYOLA

MOVEMENT

The arrangement of elements so that they lead the eye throughout an artwork.

- DIRECTIONAL:** lines move the eye through an artwork
- SHAPE:** dominant shapes are objects to another
- EDGES:** fuzzy edges are blurry, sharp edges are in focus

CRAYOLA

RHYTHM

The repeated use of similar elements, but with variations, to create a sense of movement.

- RANDOM:** repetition of motif in no obvious order
- ALTERNATING:** placement of motif in a predictable way
- PROGRESSIVE:** motif has gradual change over time

CRAYOLA

PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN

VARIETY

The use of similar and different elements in an artwork.

- OPPOSITION:** juxtaposition of elements with strong contrast
- CHANGE:** object's size, point of view, or angle is altered
- ELABORATION:** intricate details with simplicity

CRAYOLA

EMPHASIS

Highlighting part of an artwork to draw attention to it.

- CONVERGENCE:** elements pointing toward a focal point
- LOCATION:** elements close to the focal point
- ISOLATION:** element placed off to the side as a focal point

CRAYOLA

BALANCE

The arrangement of elements so that they seem equal in weight or importance.

- SYMMETRY:** one side is the mirror image of the other
- ASYMMETRY:** two sides are not equal in weight
- RADIAL:** elements are evenly arranged around a central point

CRAYOLA

UNITY

The arrangement of elements in such a way as to highlight their similarities.

- REPETITION:** similar elements are repeated
- PROXIMITY:** elements placed close together, limiting the negative space
- CONTINUATION:** elements that flow without a break in line or edge

CRAYOLA

HARMONY

The arrangement of elements so they work together as a whole.

- LINE:** helps create a sense of flow between elements
- SHAPE:** shapes work together to tell a story
- TOPE:** limited colour palette helps elements to work together

CRAYOLA