

LEST WE FORGET

Great Grandfather was a soldier
Who went to fight at war.
He said he saw horrific sights
He'd never seen before.

When he climbed aboard the ship
And headed out to sea,
It was like a big adventure,
Not a piece of history.

Young men with not a worry
As if it was a game.
But it only took one bullet
To remind them why they came.

Some fought the battle out at sea
Some fought it on the land
In the mud encrusted trenches
Trying to make a stand.

With enemy fire overhead
Their comrades falling down.
Trying to muster all their strength
To keep moving on the ground.

Trying to win each battle
And eventually win the war
Was the overriding thought within -
Frightened to wish for more

Like being home with their families
Which seemed so far away.
A letter here, a letter there
Was what got them through each day.

But when I look around the world
Wars are still being fought.
It seems the saying, 'Lest We Forget,'
Is no longer being taught.



Lest We Forget

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

Language

- What words tell you how the young men felt when they boarded the ship to head to war?
- What words in the poem give you a clue that the young men realised it wasn't an adventure?
- Why did these young soldiers travel to war by ship?
- Rewrite the following verse as a story (prose).
*With enemy fire overhead
Their comrades falling down.
Trying to muster all their strength
To keep moving on the ground.*
- What do you think it would be like for the families left at home?
- What do the words 'Lest We Forget' mean?

Drama Based

- Thinking about how the mood of the young man changes during the poem, read it in pairs.
- Imagine you have been separated from your family. Write a letter home telling them what is happening.
- Using 'Lest We Forget,' act out a scene involving the family left at home when the letter arrives.
- Choose a book such as 'The Hobbit,' and in groups of 4 to 6, act out a scene preparing for war or battle.
- Create a still picture of a battle scene.

Extension Work

- What was rationing? Make a list of what you think would be necessary items you need to live.
- Invite a refugee or an elderly person who has lived through war, into the classroom, to share their story.
- Look at the statistics and discuss the difference between World War 1 and World War 2.
- Have a group/class discussion:
What are we remembering on ANZAC day?
What is the connection between red poppies and WW1?

Performance

Think about why you are separated from your family
How long since the family had heard from the soldier?
Be aware of the changing moods you need to use.
Remember to speak one at a time when acting out scenes.