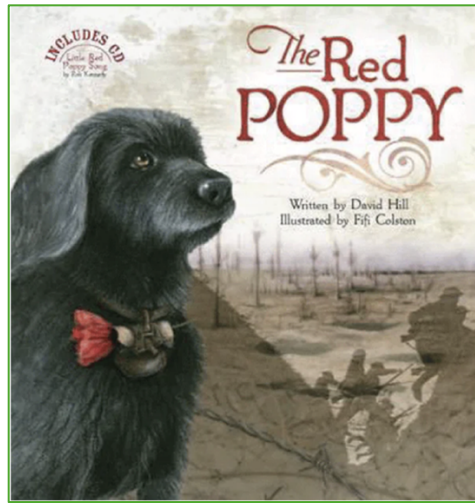


Reading Worksheet

«*The Red Poppy*»



Vocabulary

Words you'll meet across the five scenes. ★ = essential at your year level.

SCENE 1: BEFORE THE ATTACK

frightened feeling afraid or scared

trench a long narrow ditch dug into the ground for soldiers

advance to move forward, especially towards an enemy

enemy a person or group fighting against you

marched walked together in a steady rhythm

rifle a long gun used by soldiers

bayonet a sharp blade attached to the end of a rifle

stretcher a flat bed used to carry injured people

messenger someone who carries a message from one person to another

battlefield the place where a battle is fought

crater a large round hole in the ground made by an explosion

barbed wire wire with sharp points used as a barrier

lieutenant an officer in the army

pistol a small gun held in one hand

ruined badly damaged or destroyed

troops groups of soldiers

roared made a deep loud sound

praying speaking quietly to a god, often asking for help

silent completely quiet, with no sound

SCENE 2: GOING OVER THE TOP

ladder two poles with steps used for climbing

whistle a small device that makes a sharp high sound when blown

artillery large heavy guns used in war

burst to break open suddenly with great force

jerked moved suddenly and sharply

screamed made a long loud high sound

twisted turned and bent in pain or shape

whine a long high complaining sound

uniform special clothes worn by people in a group, like soldiers

clambering climbing with difficulty using hands and feet

staggered walked unsteadily, as if about to fall

thumped made a heavy beating sound

machine gun a gun that fires many bullets very quickly

sprawled spread out in a careless or untidy way

SCENE 3: THE SHELL HOLE

club a thick heavy stick used as a weapon
ribs the curved bones around your chest
throbbled had a strong steady pain that came and went
barrel the long round metal tube of a gun
smashed broken into many pieces
moaning making a low sound because of pain or sadness
sobbing crying loudly with deep breaths
deaf unable to hear
stumbled almost fell while walking
cellar an underground room beneath a house
blotches large irregular marks or stains
fright a sudden strong feeling of fear

SCENE 4: JIM AND CARL

gasped took a quick sharp breath because of pain or surprise
bandaged wrapped a piece of cloth around a wound
awkwardly in a difficult or clumsy way
wound an injury caused by a weapon or accident
gestured made a movement with your hand to communicate
pouch a small bag
dribbled flowed slowly in small drops
scrambled moved quickly using hands and feet
vanished disappeared suddenly

SCENE 5: THE RESCUE AND THE POPPY

rescue to save someone from danger
croaked spoke in a rough low voice
trotted moved at a steady gentle running pace
oozed flowed out slowly and thickly
speck a very small spot or mark
glided moved smoothly through the air
bloodstained marked with blood
stretcher bearer a soldier whose job is to carry injured people

Scene 1: Before the Attack

Jim waits in a deep trench. In 30 minutes he must climb out and advance towards the enemy. He looks at his friends and the messenger dog Nipper. Halfway across the battlefield is a patch of red poppies.

SHORT ANSWER

1. What is the main character's name?

2. How many minutes until the attack begins at the start of the scene?

3. What time will the attack begin?

4. Who is Nipper?

5. What flowers grow halfway across the battlefield?

SENTENCE ANSWER

6. Why did the soldiers march to their trenches at night?

7. What did the soldiers feed and train Nipper to do?

8. Why did Jim look along the trench at the other men?

EXTENDED ANSWER

For extended answers, use a separate sheet. 1 short paragraph (3-4 sentences) per question.

9. Describe what Jim sees on the battlefield in front of him. Use 2 to 3 sentences.

10. How do you think Jim feels in this scene? Find one word from the text and explain why.

Scene 2: Going Over the Top

The lieutenant blows his whistle and the men climb the ladders. The German guns fire back. Many soldiers fall. Jim hears bullets like angry wasps. He almost reaches the patch of red poppies when a shell explodes.

SHORT ANSWER

1. What does the lieutenant blow to start the attack?

2. What do the men use to climb out of the trench?

3. Who falls first as soon as the soldiers come out of the trench?

4. What colour are the German uniforms?

5. What does Jim compare the sound of bullets to?

SENTENCE ANSWER

6. Why does Jim throw himself down onto the ground?

7. What happens to Frank during the attack?

8. What did Jim hear that made him realise it was his own voice?

EXTENDED ANSWER

For extended answers, use a separate sheet. 1 short paragraph (3-4 sentences) per question.

9. Describe the sounds and sights Jim notices when the battle begins. Write 2 to 3 sentences.

10. Why do you think this scene is called 'Going Over the Top'? Explain in your own words.

Scene 3: The Shell Hole

Something hits Jim and his rifle is smashed. He slides into a deep shell hole and lands on his hurt arm. A wounded German soldier is already inside. Jim is afraid the German will shoot him, but then he sees the red marks on his uniform are flowers, not blood.

SHORT ANSWER

1. What happens to Jim's rifle?

2. Who does Jim find at the bottom of the shell hole?

3. What does Jim think the red marks on his uniform are at first?

4. What are the red marks really?

5. Where on his body is Jim hurt?

SENTENCE ANSWER

6. Why does Jim think the German soldier will shoot him?

7. Why does Jim laugh when he understands what is on his uniform?

8. How do we know the German soldier is also badly hurt?

EXTENDED ANSWER

For extended answers, use a separate sheet. 1 short paragraph (3-4 sentences) per question.

9. Imagine you are Jim sliding down into the shell hole. Write 2 to 3 sentences about what you see and feel.

10. Why is the shell hole described as 'like being in a cellar'? Explain what this means.

Scene 4: Jim and Carl

Jim bandages the German soldier's wound. The German tells Jim his name is Carl. Jim says his name too. Nipper appears in the shell hole. They put a message and a poppy in Nipper's pouch and send him for help.

SHORT ANSWER

1. What is the German soldier's name?

2. What German word means 'thank you'?

3. What did the Germans call soldiers on Jim's side?

4. Who suddenly appears at the edge of the shell hole?

5. What two things does Jim put in the message pouch?

SENTENCE ANSWER

6. What does Jim do to help the German soldier?

7. Why did Jim and Carl put a poppy in the pouch with the message?

8. How did Jim get the pencil and notebook to write the message?

EXTENDED ANSWER

For extended answers, use a separate sheet. 1 short paragraph (3-4 sentences) per question.

9. How does Jim's feeling about the German soldier change in this scene? Write 2 to 3 sentences using examples from the text.
10. Why do you think the writer made Jim and Carl share their names? Explain in your own words.

Scene 5: The Rescue and the Poppy

The rescue party finds Jim and Carl in the shell hole, helped by the poppy in the message pouch. Carl is carried away on a stretcher. At the end, Jim places the red poppy beside Carl and says he will never forget this day.

SHORT ANSWER

1. Who leads the rescue party to the shell hole?

2. What does Ted say is wrong with Jim's arm?

3. How did the rescue party know exactly where to look?

4. What does Jim place beside Carl at the end?

5. What does Carl say to Jim at the end?

SENTENCE ANSWER

6. Why doesn't Jim want to shoot anyone for the rest of his life?

7. Why is the poppy important to Jim and Carl?

8. How does Jim feel as he walks back towards the trenches?

EXTENDED ANSWER

For extended answers, use a separate sheet. 1 short paragraph (3-4 sentences) per question.

9. What three things does Jim say he will never forget? Why are they important to him?

10. Imagine Jim and Carl meet again after the war. Write 2 to 3 sentences about what they might say.