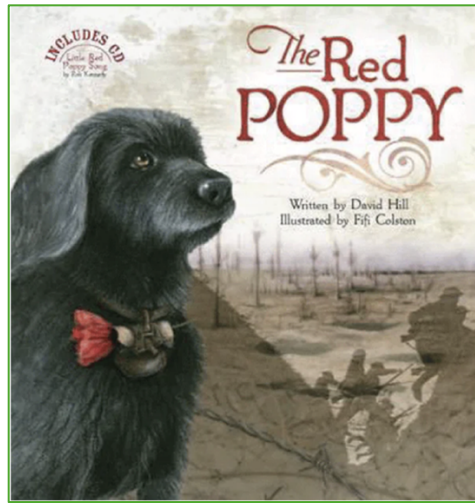


Reading Worksheet

«*The Red Poppy*»



Vocabulary

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

SCENE 1: BEFORE THE ATTACK

trench a long narrow ditch dug into the ground for soldiers

advance to move forward, especially towards an enemy

bayonet a sharp blade attached to the end of a rifle

stretcher a flat bed used to carry injured people

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

praying speaking quietly to a god, often asking for help

SCENE 2: GOING OVER THE TOP

artillery large heavy guns used in war

jerked moved suddenly and sharply

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

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

moaning making a low sound because of pain or sadness

sobbing crying loudly with deep breaths

stumbled almost fell while walking

cellar an underground room beneath a house

blotches large irregular marks or stains

SCENE 4: JIM AND CARL

gaped 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

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 time will the attack begin?

2. Who is Nipper, and what is tied around his neck?

3. What grows halfway between the two trenches?

SENTENCE ANSWER

4. Why did the soldiers march in the dark on their way to the trenches?

5. How does the writer show that Jim is afraid in this scene? Find one example from the text.

6. What does the silence at the start of the scene tell us about what is about to happen?

7. Why might the writer have chosen to mention the red poppies before the attack starts?

EXTENDED ANSWER

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

8. Describe the battlefield as Jim sees it. Use details from the text.

9. How does the writer build a feeling of fear and waiting in this scene? Give 2 examples.

10. If you were Jim, what would you be thinking in the last 10 minutes before the attack? Explain.

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 signal starts the attack?

2. Who is the first person Jim sees fall?

3. What does Jim do when the machine gun begins firing?

SENTENCE ANSWER

4. Why does the writer compare the bullets to 'angry wasps'?

5. What does the line 'Please, please...' tell us about how Jim feels?

6. How does the writer show that the battle is chaotic? Give one example.

7. Why does Jim keep going even when his friends are falling around him?

EXTENDED ANSWER

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

8. Describe how the writer uses sound to make this scene feel real. Give two examples from the text.

9. Compare the silent waiting in Scene 1 with the noise of Scene 2. How is the mood different?

10. What do you think this scene shows us about war? Use details from the text in your answer.

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 does Jim think the red blotches on his uniform are at first?

2. What does the German soldier hold up to show Jim?

3. How is the shell hole described?

SENTENCE ANSWER

4. Why does Jim 'go cold with fright' when he looks at his uniform?

5. Why does the writer have Jim laugh in the middle of such a serious moment?

6. What clues tell us the German soldier cannot fight Jim?

7. How does meeting the German change the danger Jim feels?

EXTENDED ANSWER

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

8. Describe how the writer shows that Jim and the German are both human, not just enemies. Use 2 examples.

9. If the German had not been wounded, how might this scene have ended? Explain your answer.

10. Why do you think the writer chose a shell hole as the place where Jim and the German meet? What does this place mean in the story?

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 does Jim do for the wounded German?

2. What two things go into Nipper's message pouch?

3. What does the German call Jim, and what does it mean?

SENTENCE ANSWER

4. Why is the moment when Jim and Carl share their names important?

5. How does the writer show that Jim and Carl trust each other now?

6. What does Nipper's appearance bring to the scene? (Hint: think about hope.)

7. Why does the poppy work as a 'map' to find them?

EXTENDED ANSWER

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

8. Explain how Jim's view of Carl changes from the start of Scene 3 to the end of Scene 4. Use examples.

9. What does this scene say about the difference between 'enemies' in war and people in real life?

10. If Jim had not bandaged Carl's wound, how do you think the rest of the story would change?

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. How does the rescue party find Jim and Carl?

2. What three things does Jim say he will never forget?

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

SENTENCE ANSWER

4. Why does Jim say, 'I never want to hurt anyone for the rest of my life'?

5. What does the poppy come to mean by the end of the story?

6. Why is it important that the soldiers laugh and tell Carl, 'You'll be all right, Fritz'?

7. How does the ending make the reader feel? Why?

EXTENDED ANSWER

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

8. Explain why the title of this book is 'The Red Poppy'. Give at least two reasons from the story.

9. How does this story make you think differently about the word 'enemy'? Use examples from the text.

10. Imagine you are Jim writing a letter home that night. Write what you would say to your family.