**In Flanders Field**

**By John McCrea**

**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**

Composed at the battlefront on May 3, 1915  during the second battle of Ypres, Belgium

1. Who were the dead in the poem?

How old were they, do you think?

2. Why did McCrae choose to write the poem as if it were spoken by the dead?

3. Who are the dead speaking to? What if we forget what happened to them?

4. Use the **first stanza** of the poem to draw a picture on the poem page.

Word Meaning

Flanders part of Belgium where there was heaving fighting during World War I

lark bird that sings beautifully

scarce hardly at all

dawn time when the sun comes up in the morning

sunset time when the sun goes down in the evening

quarrel fight/argument

foe enemy

torch A light that can be carried

ye Old English word, used for “you”

faith belief in someone/something