

Intermediate Essay 2nd Place

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Zone G-7

To Remember

I'm a grade 8 student and I have come to realize that most kids in my school don't see the significance in why we remember those who fought for Canada and if you were to ask them they tend to give an uneducated guess; "Because we won, that's why we remember." We need to work towards student's answers to being much more accurate, such as, "It's important because all of our lives would be a lot different and probably under German law."

We are very fortunate as Canadians to have education, free health care, the right to an opinion, the ability to vote (including women) and to feel safe in our own country. The main reason we are able to have all these things and freely walk the streets is because of the veterans that served this country. In my own opinion, we take that for granted. On Remembrance Day we wear a poppy over our heart to remember those who were lost and still fighting today. On the 11th month of the 11th day on the 11th hour we have a moment of silence to pray and reflect, and keeping our flag at half-mast for this is a time of distress and mourning.

In my generation I think we cannot comprehend or understand war as we haven't witnessed it first hand, only heard stories. For example, Passchendaele one of Flanders Fields bloodiest episodes, World War I, World War II and Vimy Ridge the battle that makes Vimy today thank the Canadians even if we aren't necessarily the ones who gave them freedom. I can't help but feel sad for the lives that were lost and the families that have received a letter in the mail stating, "I am deeply saddened as your son and his body were lost at war." A simple letter could not ease the pain. My great grandfather was in the war and luckily he made it out alive. Years later, he died of a heart attack. I can't imagine how my great grandmother felt to lose him, but imagining his loss at war is even harder.

November 11th known as Remembrance Day, marks the day we started to be truly free. Remembrance Day is the day we think of those people in the war and how they sacrificed themselves for others because they were selfless. Teachers and parents encourage kids to keep the legacy of these people alive. In peace, sons bury their father, but at war fathers bury their sons. Lest we forget.