

**Junior Essay 1st Place**  
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**Zone G-5**

### What if...

One day to remember. One day that should be a week, or even a month. Every day I live happily in peace while soldiers are out there fighting for peace, for our country. Soldiers have families and friends, and they are still willing to sacrifice their lives for us. They lose their lives for us, with some forgotten. Ringing in my head are questions.

What if you were a soldier, standing on the battlefield? You are afraid, not knowing what will happen. But soldiers are willing to sacrifice their life, battling selflessly for peace, for people they do not even know. What if you were injured, shot on the field, not knowing if you will be seen, not knowing if you will be healed? A real soldier would keep calm, despite the pain. Can you imagine it? They deserve respect.

What if you were at home, with a loved one on the battlefield? Not knowing if you will see him again, not knowing where he will go? A family member would wait, doing everything they can to pass time, and soon they get a letter. She is eager to read it and when she does, she knows that her husband is okay. What if a loved one died, what would you do? Some families are waiting anxiously on news of their loved one lost for 70 years! They deserve respect.

What if you were a veteran, with many stories to tell? What if you were a veteran trying to go back to a "normal" life? Some veterans have trouble doing this after their experiences in the war. Some veterans have seen things that change their life forever. These can impact relationships, cause anger, and they can have flashbacks of the memory. Can you imagine having this? Many veterans do not know what their next step should be in life as some veterans have lost body parts and limbs. How would you explain your stories with all of this? Can you imagine it? They deserve respect.

All of these people are special, and they have all been involved in the wars. On remembrance day, we can't forget about any of these people. All of these people have done something to make this country. Without them, the whole world would be dark, like the middle of the poppy. After two minutes of silence, I think about what all of these people have done. I realize I have found answers to all my questions after all. We shall remember and we must not forget.