

Junior Essay 3rd Place
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Zone G-4

Poppies, Hearts and Peace

On November 11th we celebrate Remembrance Day. One recognizable symbol is the red poppies that people wear. A Canadian lieutenant named John McCrae wrote a poem called Flanders Fields during World War I. The death of his friend, Alexis Helmer inspired him to write the poem. Every year students all over Canada learn this poem and create art work based on the poppies his poem talks about.

I chose to write about the poppy, how and why, I think it should be worn on the left side of our chest, close to our heart. The heart is meaningful because many hearts were broken and torn apart by war. The hearts sad when their loved ones left for war. The hearts broken when those same loved ones never returned home. The crying hearts of young children who would never grow up with a father. What about the hearts of the soldiers in the trenches? How hard were they pounding when shots were being fired at them? Their hearts must have been torn apart as they witnessed their friends next to them die by gun fire. What about the innocent people who had to be forced from their homes because they were destroyed in war? Their hearts were lonely and lost as they had no place to go. Placing a red poppy over our heart is a beautiful remembrance of all the hearts affected by war.

We should always remember the veterans because they risked their lives for us to have peace. Peace is what this world needs most. I believe that war should not be a thing that happens. Countries should not be sending people out to fight when there are other ways to solve problems. If wars stop, that would help kids and some adults realize that violence is not the right answer. There are much better ways to solve problems. Maybe if wars stop there would be less fights in and out of school. Setting a world goal of peace is what all leaders of countries should model, and it could trickle down to kids.