

In Flanders Fields

By John A. McCrae (1872-1918)

I saw this picture as our class was walking through Ypres. I did not stop at first to take a picture of it, but I am glad I did later. I walked through the museum, and when I came across the picture again, I understood it so much better. It is of a soldier standing in the fields of poppies and ruins. This connects with the poem when it is written, "We shall not sleep, though poppies grow". Poppies have properties that can make people tranquil, but it is said that even though there are poppies, the soldiers cannot rest. The poppy was a very prominent appearance in Ypres, because it is a symbol of remembrance.



As for the poem, I think that it is about the forgotten soldiers that died in Ypres. They lie restless and forgotten in the fields of poppies. This poem is to remember them, and to show the reader what they must have felt during the war. The poem says that they are dead, and that they want us to take up their battle, and make sure they don't die for nothing. They say we must not "break faith with us who die". That is the purpose of this poem: to make sure that they are not forgotten and are revered.

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.