

Choral Readings "In Flanders Fields"

There are several versions for both elementary and secondary students to try.

Version I

Start with sounds of birds nearby, wind in trees and distant sounds of booming as if guns are going off.

Female voice: In Flanders fields the poppies blow
 Male voice: Between the crosses
 Females: row on row
 Males: That mark our place;
 Female voice: and in the sky (pointing)
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly.
 All: Scarce heard amid the guns below.

Males: We are the Dead. Short days ago
 We lived,
 Male voice: felt dawn
 Another male voice:
 saw sunset glow
 Another male voice:
 loved
 Another male voice:
 and were loved
 Males: and now we lie in Flanders fields.

Unison: Take up our quarrel with the foe:
 Female voice: To you from failing hands we throw
 the torch;
 Females pointing:
 be yours to hold it high.
 Males: If ye break faith with us who die
 We shall not sleep
 Male voice: though poppies grow
 All: In Flanders Fields.

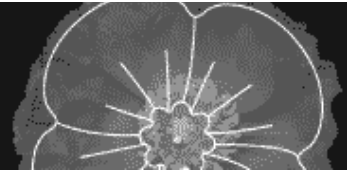
End with gun sounds, fading to bird sounds, fading to sounds of the wind.

Version II – Less Rehearsal

Females: In Flanders fields the poppies blow
 Between the crosses, row on row
 Males: that mark our place; and in the sky
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly
 All: Scarce heard amid the guns below.

All: We are the Dead.
 Males: Short days ago
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow.
 Females: Loved and were loved
 Males: and now we lie in Flanders fields.

All: Take up our quarrel with the foe.
 Females: To you from failing hands we throw
 The torch;
 Males: be yours to hold it high.
 All: If ye break faith with us who die
 We shall not sleep
 One male: though poppies grow
 In Flanders fields.



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Version III – Complex

Start with soundscape setting the scene for Flanders with sounds of birds and guns

Female voices: In Flanders fields

Add in: headlines of the day that show what was being highlighted in current events.

Male voices superimpose:

The poppies blow,
Between the crosses, row on row,

All creating an echo:

that mark our place..our place..our
place..our place..

Background singing of:

"It's a Long Way to Tipperary"

One voice hand up to stop repeated our place and singing of Tipperary song;

and in the sky
The larks still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

Soundscape of increasing gun sounds mixed with pieces of headlines and popular war songs.

Males: We are the dead.
Short days ago we lived.

Female: Felt dawn

Male: Saw sunset glow

Males: Loved

Females: and were loved

All: and now we lie in Flanders fields.

War headlines in soundscape with sounds of punctuating explosions.

Males: Take up our quarrel with the foe
Females: To you from failing hands we throw
All: The torch...echo...the torch...the
torch...the TORCH
All: Be yours to hold it high.
Male: If ye break faith with us who die
All: We shall not sleep...sleep...sleep.
Soundscape with birds, guns and headlines.

Female voice: though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.