

Lamont Books Standing Order

February 2012

Teacher Notes and Activities

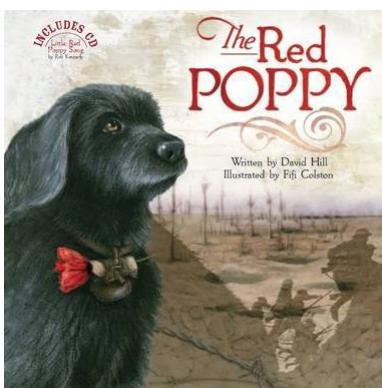
The Red Poppy

By David Hill & Illustrated by Fifi Colston

ISBN 9781869439989

\$26.99

Young soldier Jim McLeod waits in the trenches of World War I for the order to attack the enemy. With him are his friends, and Nipper, the messenger dog. When they charge across no-man's-land, Jim is shot ...and finds himself face to face with an enemy soldier.



Teacher Notes extracted from those prepared by Scholastic New Zealand. A full version is available at: www.scholastic.co.nz/Resources/Notes/The-Red-Poppy.pdf

Themes:

- War
- Human compassion
- Symbolism

Discussion Points & Activities:

Have students study the front cover of the book and read the blurb.

- Who is the book about? When is the story set?
- What is the name of the dog on the front cover? What is his role?
- Do you know why we give away red poppies on ANZAC day? What do you think they might symbolise?
- Who does Jim write to the night before the battle?
- Why is Jim frightened?
- What is the name of the messenger dog? Where did the soldiers find him? How does the dog transport messages? What advantages does a dog have over a human?
- Why is Nipper considered to be such a good dog?
- Why do you think Jim doesn't mention anything to his mother and sister about the approaching battle or the conditions in which he lives?
- Is it ever right to kill people during a war? Justify your answer.
- Why do you think the illustrator has used a bright colour to depict the poppies? What do you think the bright poppies might represent?
- What does Jim's treatment of the injured German soldier suggest about his character?
- What is the significance of the men telling each other their names?
- What does this story illustrate about compassion and humanity? What lesson do you think Jim learns from his experience?

Activities:

- Poetry – Using words and images from the story write a war poem.
- Writing – Imagine that you are Jim. Write a diary entry for the night after the incident with the German soldier occurred. Describe what happened – all the things you saw, heard and felt.