Westminster Abbey
Learning

Remembrance lesson activities – Upper KS2

Thank you for downloading this resource. We hope that it will be a useful teaching tool in your classroom.

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Message from the Unknown Warrior

After the First World War many men who had died in battle were buried under new headstones which all had the same simple design.

There was space for 4 lines written by families to remember their loved one.

These messages are often called epitaphs. The words tell us what was so special about this person and what they still mean to families and friends.

The epitaphs on First World War graves are written in many different languages because men from all over the world fought for Britain.

Some of these epitaphs search for a meaning to the deaths of the soldiers.

Task

To write a message from the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey.

Instructions for working in pairs

Read through the real First World War epitaphs about named soldiers and the writing on the Grave of the Unknown Warrior.

Create your own Word Bank by circling some words or phrases that you like then writing them in the boxes below.

Imagine what kind of soldier he was. Perhaps he was like the soldiers in the epitaphs you've read. Use your Word Bank to help you.

Talk with your partner about why soldiers like the Unknown Warrior went to war and what they might have learnt about war.

Start 'We…'

Imagine that the Unknown Warrior could speak to you, or to any visitor to Westminster Abbey standing beside his Grave, and share a message for the future. Use your Word Bank to help you.

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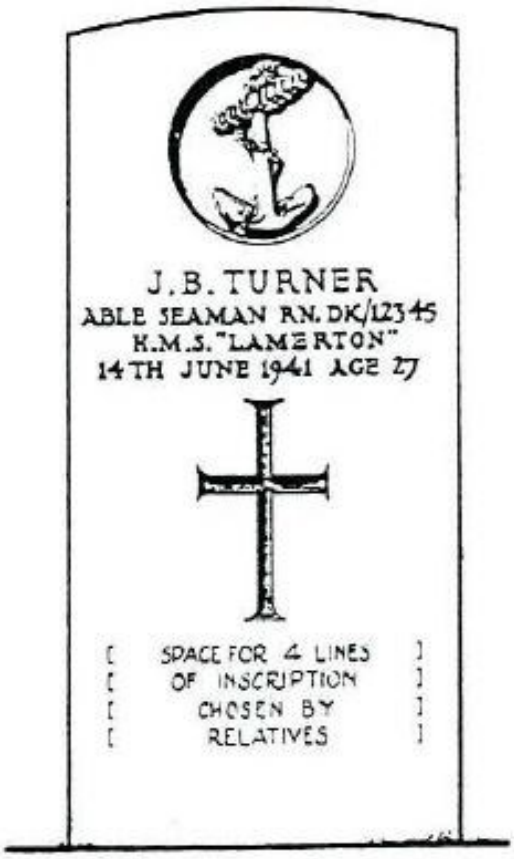
Talk with your partner about what his message to us would be. Start 'You…'

Write your message *To the Unknown Reader* on the Grave writing frame.



A standard Commission headstone with rounded top. ©CWGC

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FIRST WORLD WAR EPITAPHS	
AS BRAVE AS A LION & WORKED TO HIS LAST OUNCE IN THE CAUSE OF HIS WOUNDED COMRADES Private Herbert Perry MM	HIS LAST MESSAGE 'I WOULD NOT HAVE MISSED IT FOR ANYTHING' Private Henry James Hewett
HE DETESTED THE WHOLE ATMOSPHERE OF WAR BUT DID HIS DUTY Lieutenant Harry Albert Gray MC	A BOY WITH A TRUE SENSE OF DUTY AND A BRAVE MAN'S SCORN OF FEAR Gunner Thomas McDowell
HIS MEN USED TO SAY 'WE WOULD FOLLOW TOMMY ANYWHERE' Captain Howard Victor Fraser Thomas MC	HIS NAME IS WRITTEN IN LETTERS OF LOVE IN HEARTS HE LEFT BEHIND Private Ronald William Reschke
I FOUGHT AND DIED IN THE GREAT WAR TO END ALL WARS HAVE I DIED IN VAIN? Sergeant Philip James Ball MM	HE WENT TO WAR FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE HE DIED WITHOUT HATE THAT LOVE MIGHT LIVE Private Sidney Milham
WOULD THAT THOSE WHO MADE THE QUARRELS WERE THE ONLY ONES TO FIGHT Private Leonard Cecil Tams	YE, THAT LIVE ON REMEMBER US AND THINK 'WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN' Gunner William Roy Fountain
THUS ARE COMMEMORATED THE MANY MULTITUDES WHO DURING THE GREAT WAR OF 1914-1918 GAVE THE MOST THAT MAN CAN GIVE LIFE ITSELF FOR GOD FOR KING AND COUNTRY FOR LOVED ONES HOME AND EMPIRE FOR THE SACRED CAUSE OF JUSTICE AND THE FREEDOM OF THE WORLD THEY BURIED HIM AMONG THE KINGS BECAUSE HE HAD DONE GOOD TOWARD GOD AND TOWARD HIS HOUSE The Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey	

MY WORD BANK		

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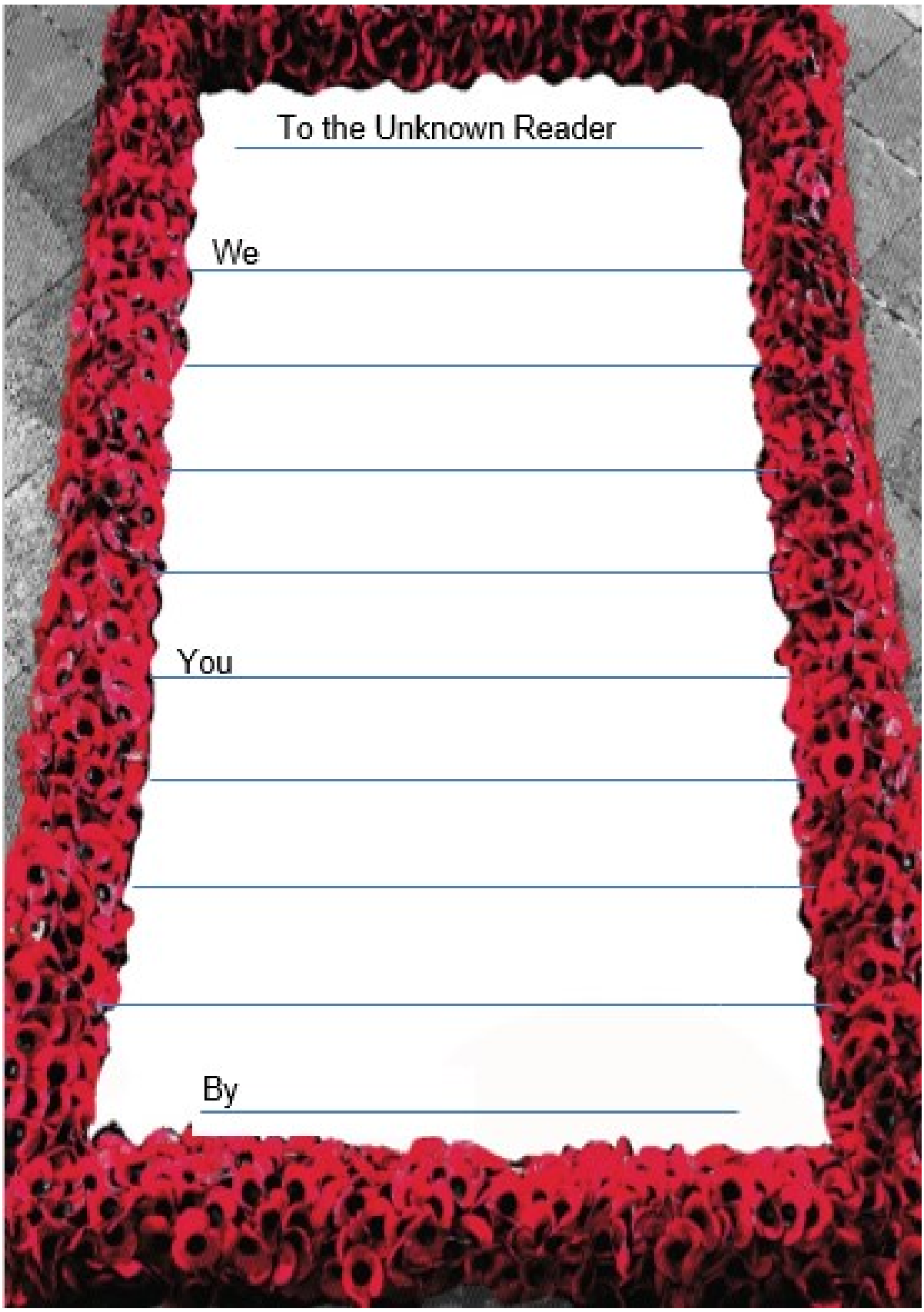

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