

In Flanders Fields
by Col. John McCrae

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.

1. What is the point of view? First, second or third person?
2. Who is the speaker?
3. Please list three images that best helped you picture the scene at Flanders Fields.
4. What images does McCrae use to compare life and death?
5. What does McCrae mean by "to you from failing hands we throw the torch?" Is he talking about an actual torch? Explain.
6. Why do you think McCrae chose to open and close the poem with poppies?
7. Poppies have long been used as a symbol of both death and sleep. How has McCrae used them as a symbol of death? Of sleep? Of both?