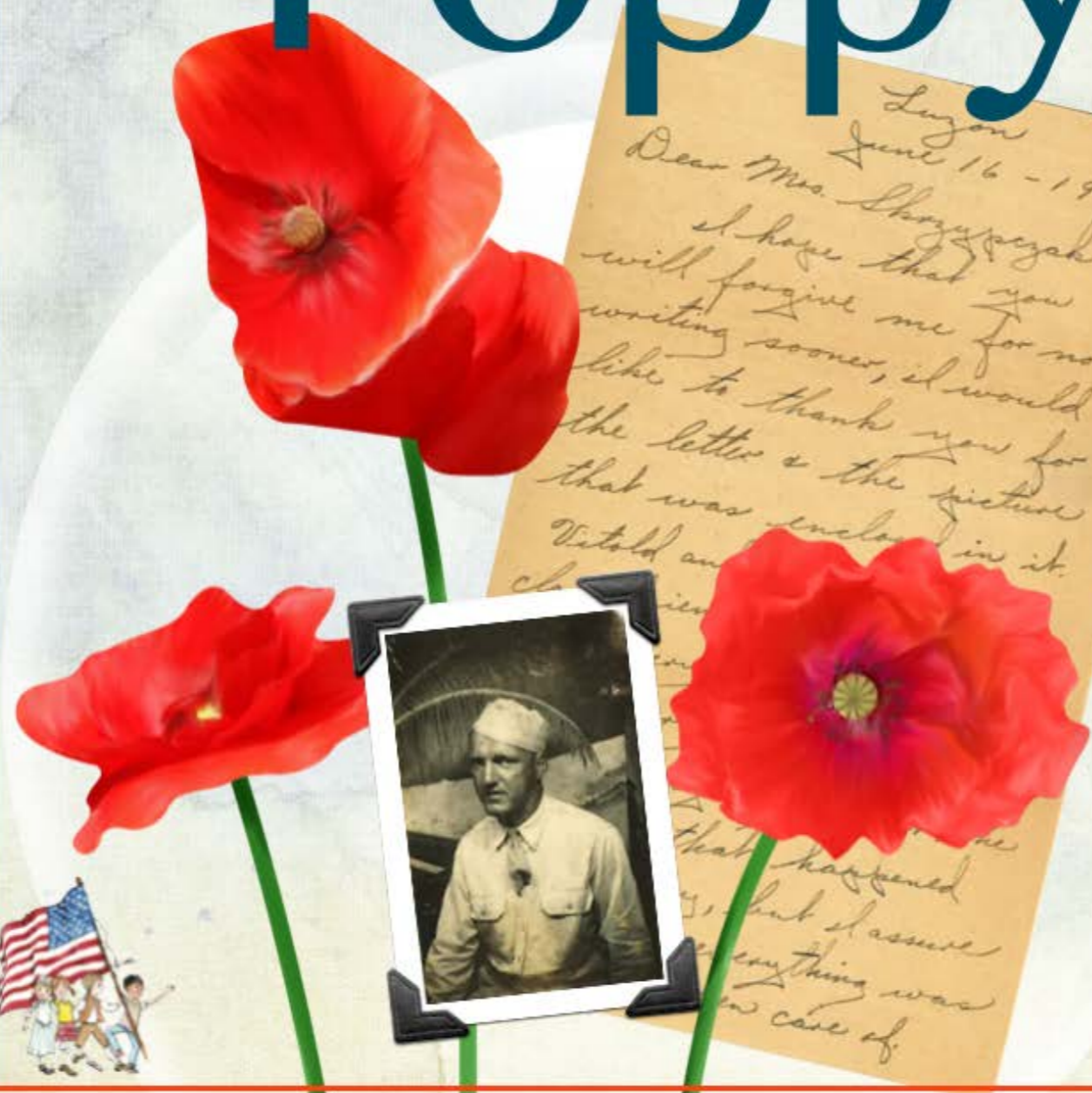


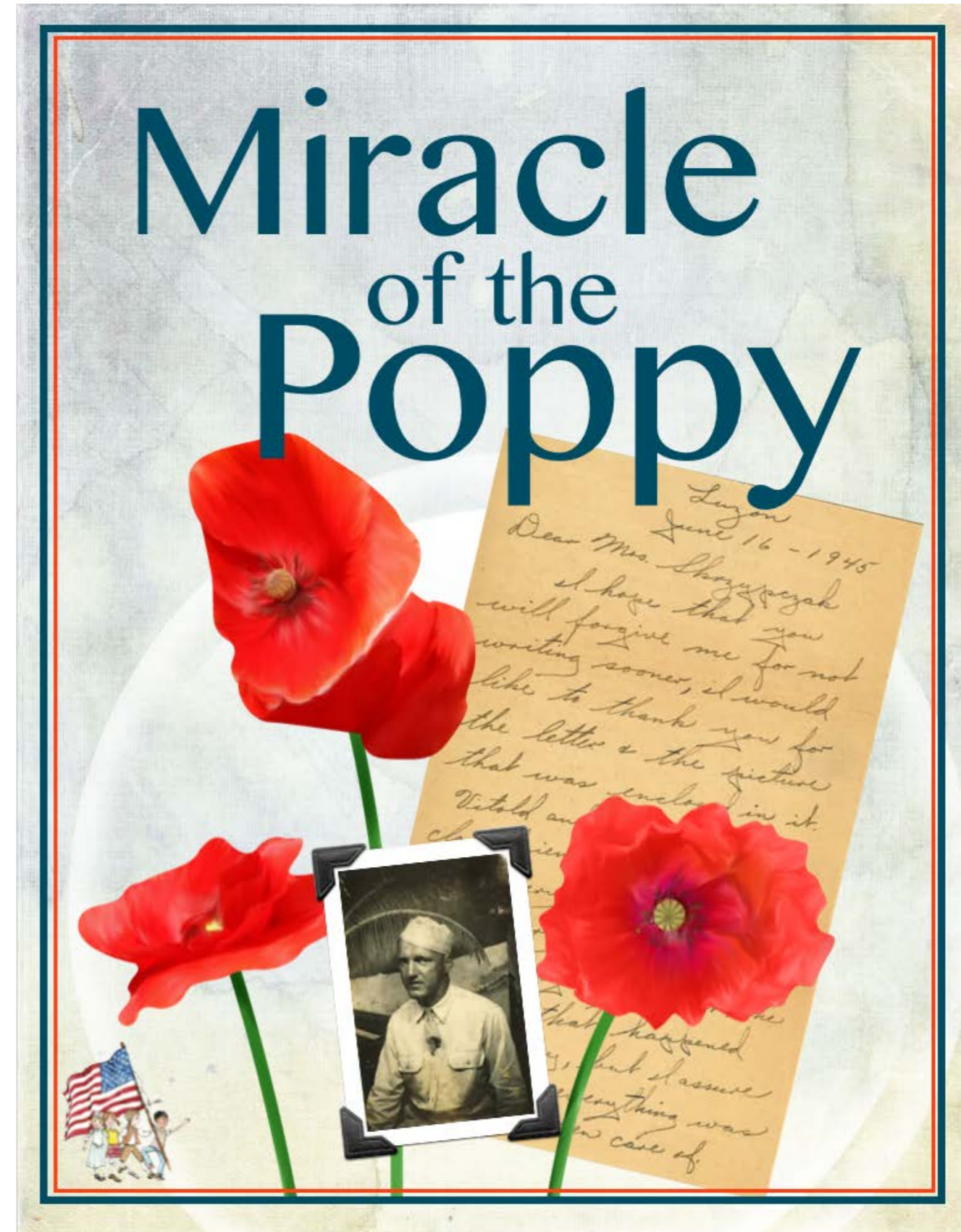
# Miracle of the Poppy

Luzon  
June 16 - 1945  
Dear Mrs. Shoyuzayak  
I hope that you  
will forgive me for not  
writing sooner, it would  
like to thank you for  
the letter & the picture  
that was enclosed in it.  
Told an  
that happened  
but I assure  
everything was  
in case of.



# Miracle of the Poppy

A Veterans Tribute



# Miracle of the Poppy

Lesson Plan



## Acknowledgments:

We express a heartfelt thank you to the Rembacz Family for allowing us to share these precious documents with educators throughout our nation. We encourage you to read each document previous to sharing the information with your students. We have included a few simple ideas to enrich the lesson but realize the documents alone will engage and empower a deeper understanding and respect towards veterans and the selflessness they and their families devote to liberty.



# Miracle of the Poppy



## Notes

1. Prior to lesson, wrap a poppy in a box (see page 5 for directions on how to make a large paper poppy if you don't have one).
2. Swipe from right to left (4 fingers) after accessing webpages to return to lesson plan.
3. Touch **HERE** if you are having trouble printing worksheets from an iPad to see if printer is compatible.
4. By double touching images or pinching fingers out, you will access full screen mode. Then swipe to access each image.  
To return to lesson plan simply pinch fingers together to bring back or touch "X" in corner.



# Lesson

# Miracle of the Poppy



What is the **definition of veteran?**

*(A person who has served in the military.)*



What does it mean **to serve?**

*(To do something kind for someone else.)*

**WHEN** you serve you are Giving a gift.

**THESE** are **not usually** gifts you open like a present but they are gifts that make the **giver and the receiver happy.**

**VETERANS** give **every American** a very special gift. **WHEN** a veteran serves our country **they give us the gift of liberty.**



[smileifyou'rehappy-libertykids website link](http://smileifyou'rehappy-libertykids.com)

# Miracle of the Poppy

## Lesson



**INSIDE** this gift is something that **helps us remember** our veterans.

You should have **PREPARED** a **large poppy** (how to link is below), wrap it extravagantly in a box.



Touch **HERE** (portrait view) or either image for website with step by step directions to make large poppy.



**HAVE** a **student open** the **gift**.

**SHOW** students the **poppy**.

**THE poppy** represents the **gift of service** given to us by **veterans**.

**EVERY TIME** we see a **poppy** we **remember our veterans**.



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# Miracle of the Poppy

## Lesson



## “In Flanders Fields”

A **VETERAN** by the name of **John McCrae** wrote the poem “**In Flanders Fields**” during WWI.

**HE** was an **army doctor**. **HE** was **grieving** the **loss** of **many soldiers** that were buried **across Europe**.

**HE** noticed **amidst the soldiers graves** grew **poppies**.

**READ** “**In Flanders Fields**” poem.

Poppies Growing Amidst Graves & Flanders Fields Images



Col. John McCrae



**DIVIDE** the **stanzas between the class** and have them work to **memorize** and **interpret the poem**.

[smileifyou'rehappy-libertykids website link](http://smileifyou'rehappy-libertykids.com)

# Miracle of the Poppy

## Lesson



# Moina Michaels

**WHEN** an **American woman** named **Moina Michael** read “Flanders Fields” she decided to *show her gratitude* to our veterans by working to make the **poppy** the official **remembrance symbol** for **all veterans**. **SHE** sold **poppies** to **raise money** for veterans and their families.



[smileifyou'rehappy-libertykids website link](http://smileifyou'rehappy-libertykids.com)

Moina Michael Image



Moina Michaels



# Miracle of the Poppy

## Lesson



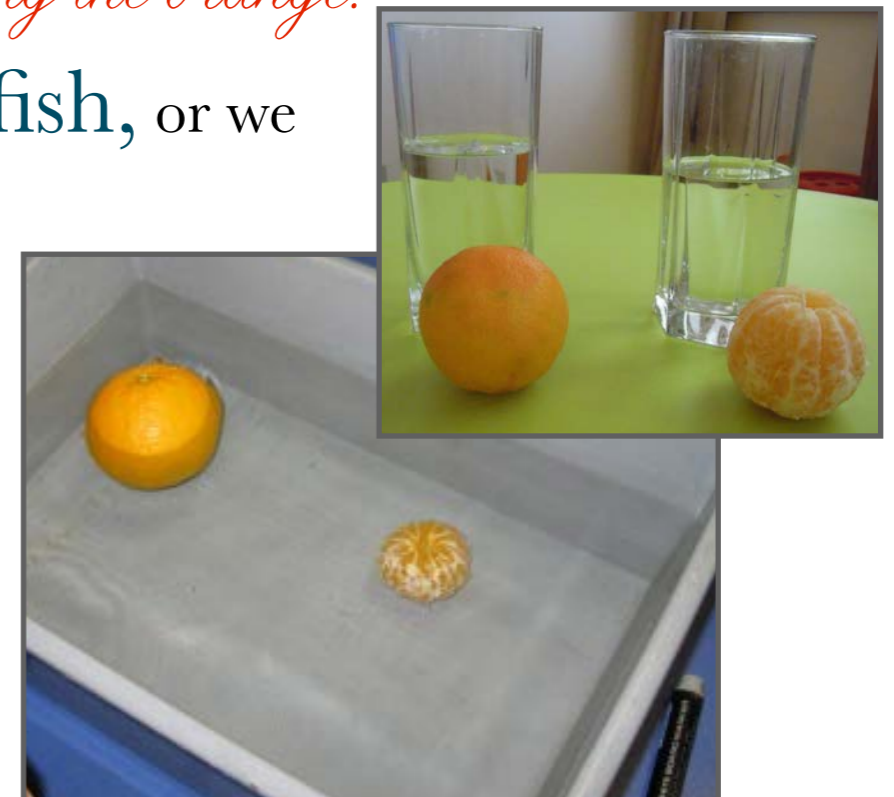
## Object Lesson

**COLLECT** and prepare **2 oranges** and **1 large glass container** (or 2 glass cups) **filled with water**. **AS** you are **talking** be *peeling the orange*.

**DISCUSS** how **without serving** we become **sad and selfish**, or we **sink** (*demonstrate how a peeled orange sinks in water*). **BUT**, if we **create patterns of service** in our lives we become **happy**, we **float** (*demonstrate how an orange with its skin floats*). **USE** *personal examples* of how service

has affected your **happiness** or the **happiness** of others.

[smileifyou'rehappy-libertykids website link](http://smileifyou'rehappy-libertykids.com)



# Miracle of the Poppy

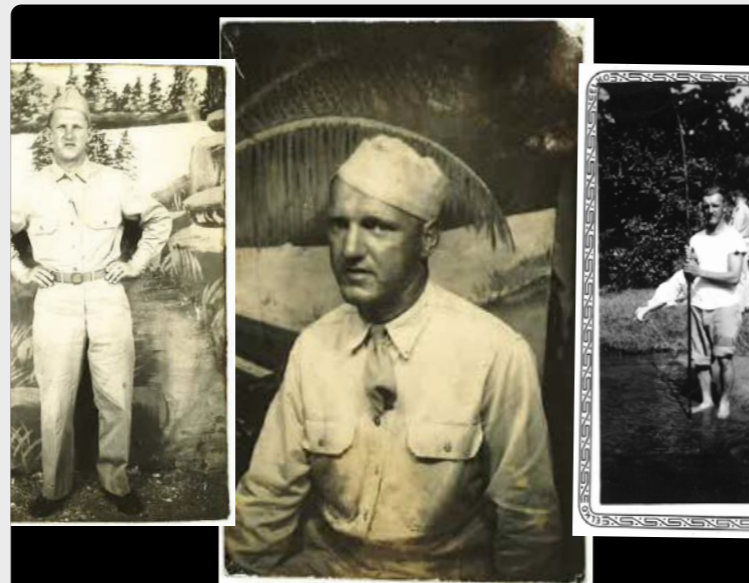


## Lesson

*The following records of Vitold Skrzypczak are filled with inferences of how service empowers us to overcome even the most devastating and challenging circumstances.*

## Vitold Skrzypczak

Vitold Skrzypczak Images



Vitold Skrzypczak  
(pronounced SCRIP-)

Vitold Skrzypczak

**THIS** is Vitold Skrzypczak (*pronounced SCRIP-CHECK*), his family **immigrated to America** from **Poland**. **HE** was a **veteran**. **HE** fought and died in the **Second World War**. **HE** was from **Chicago, Illinois**. **HE** loved to *fish and play*. **HE** especially **loved** his sister and his parents. **HE** wanted to **give his family, friends and country** the **gift of liberty** so he **joined** the **Army**.



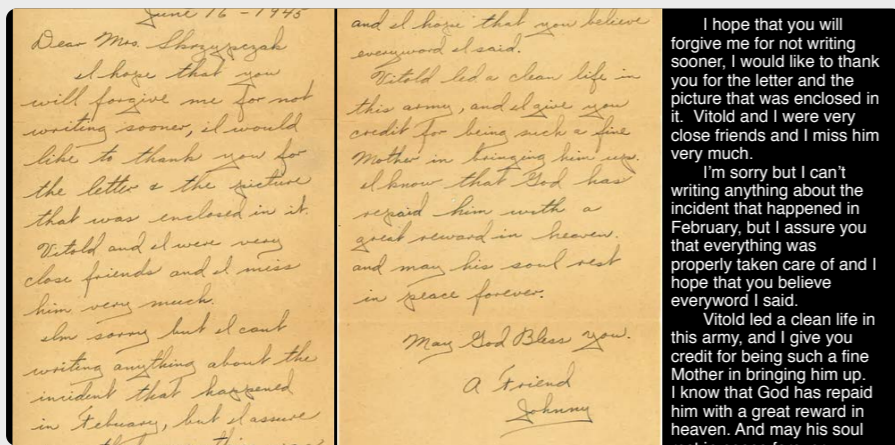
# Miracle of the Poppy

## Lesson

Lesson Plan



### Correspondence Letters



First letter received from Johnny after the death of Vitold.

.....

**TAKE** time to **read the correspondence** between *Vitold, his family and his best friend Johnny.*

**CHALLENGE** your students to **look for inferences** and **text evidence** of what it may feel like **to be an American Soldier.**

**AFTER** reading the **Skrzypczak letters...**



**What did you learn about serving in the military?**



**What attributes can we learn from Victor and Johnny to help us give service?**



[smileifyou'rehappy-libertykids website link](http://smileifyou'rehappy-libertykids.com)

# Miracle of the Poppy

## Lesson



★ Kindness

*(expresses compliments)*

★ Gratitude

*(always expressing thanks)*

★ Respect

*(addresses Mrs. Skrzypczak with respect)*

★ Responsibility

*(fulfills military duty even when confronted with challenges)*

★ Hard Work

*(Vitold's work ethic and interests are described with admiration)*

★ Compassion

*(understanding of all participants and bystanders of war-Japan letter)*



# Miracle of the Poppy

## Lesson

Lesson Plan



**FOR** those interested in **reading** about the **battle Vitold was killed** in please refer to the following document:

**Touch HERE**  
(portrait view) .....  
or poppy for the Battle link



**PAGES 9-10** mentions the part of the battle where **Vitold** was **most likely killed**.

Letter to the editor

Letter to the editor

Blue Ribbon Letter:

**Plenty of bombs during WWII, but they weren't F-bombs**

Published: Thursday, June 10, 2010, 5:27 AM

I am an 88-year-old veteran of World War II who served proudly with the 1st Marine Division in Okinawa and China.

As I viewed the recent series, "Pacific," on HBO, I was angry and embarrassed at the constant use of the F-word while depicting Marines in battle.

I went into the front line in Okinawa on May 9, 1945, with the 1st Marine Division. The fighting could only be described as pure hell. I never heard

It may be commonplace for people to use that word nowadays, but it was not commonplace during the 1940s (when most everyone went to church on Sundays). I resent the fact that modern movies shed a disrespectful light on the Marines and those of us who were actually there.

We have been called the "greatest generation" and given Honor Flights to Washington, D.C. We are not the generation who spoke the F-word in

Letter written by H. Paul Bailey



**FOR** the **older student** or **class** that wants to **rise to the challenge** and commit to using *good language*: A WWII veteran wrote a letter to the editor that is worth sharing.

smileifyou'rehappy-libertykids website link

# Miracle of the Poppy

## Lesson



**CHALLENGE** students to **create** a **no cussing club** or **join** this one:



**OUR** school wants to be **filled with students** that **give the gift of service.** If we **create habits** of serving we **feel good about ourselves** and become genuinely **concerned for others.**



smileifyou'rehappy-libertykids website link

*Serving makes us happy!*

# Miracle of the Poppy



Lesson



## Miracle of the Poppy

**CHALLENGE** your **students** or **entire school** to **experience** the

# “Miracle of the Poppy”.

**PRE-ASSEMBLE** or **have students make veterans poppies** to wrap around finger or wear home. **TELL** them to **wear it in remembrance** of our **veterans**.

**TO SHOW** our veterans how much we love them go and give the gift of service to someone in need. **BRING** your **poppy** back to school and **share what you did** as a

**service**. **COLLECT** your **poppies** in a large glass vessel and

**experience** the **miracle of the poppy!**

[smileifyou'rehappy-libertykids website link](http://smileifyou'rehappy-libertykids.com)



# Miracle of the Poppy

## Resources



### Images/Videos/Websites

**Giant Poppy Craft:** <http://theartfulcrafter.com/blog/poppies.html>

**Poppy Amidst the Graves 1:**

[http://a0.twimg.com/profile\\_images/1632303502/somme\\_poppies.jpg](http://a0.twimg.com/profile_images/1632303502/somme_poppies.jpg)

**Poppy Amidst the Graves 2:**

<http://www.dphotographer.co.uk/users/9140/thm1024/poppies.jpg>

**Poppy Amidst the Graves 3:**

[http://www.defense.gov/DODCMSShare/NewsStoryPhoto/2009-11/scr\\_091111-A-XXXXB-002.jpg](http://www.defense.gov/DODCMSShare/NewsStoryPhoto/2009-11/scr_091111-A-XXXXB-002.jpg)

**In Flanders Fields Poem/Images:** <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/flanders.htm>

**Letter to the Editor:**

[http://blog.al.com/press-register-commentary/2010/06/blue\\_ribbon\\_letter\\_plenty\\_of\\_bombs\\_during\\_wwii\\_but\\_they\\_werent\\_f-bombs.html](http://blog.al.com/press-register-commentary/2010/06/blue_ribbon_letter_plenty_of_bombs_during_wwii_but_they_werent_f-bombs.html)

**No Cussing Club:** <http://www.nocussing.com/becomeafreemember/beamember.html>

**Battle Link:**

<http://www.benning.army.mil/library/content/Virtual/Armorpapers/BrinsonArthurCPT.pdf>





# Miracle of the Poppy

## Resources



**Molina Michaels & John McCrae Images:** <http://iwvpa.net/michaelm/>  
<http://www.greatwar.co.uk/article/remembrance-poppy.htm>  
<http://www.hmdb.org/Photos/70/Photo70173.jpg>  
[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/08/John\\_McCrae\\_in\\_uniform\\_circa\\_1914.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/08/John_McCrae_in_uniform_circa_1914.jpg)  
[http://www.webmatters.net/graphics/photos/cwgc\\_sz/wimereux\\_com-09a.jpg](http://www.webmatters.net/graphics/photos/cwgc_sz/wimereux_com-09a.jpg)  
stamp: <http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/tdgh-aug/Moina%20Michael%20Stamp.jpg>  
[http://arago.si.edu/media/000/014/215/14215\\_lg.jpg](http://arago.si.edu/media/000/014/215/14215_lg.jpg)  
<http://www.scotiana.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/JohnMcCrae-Canada-StampRawe520.jpg>

**Orange Images:**

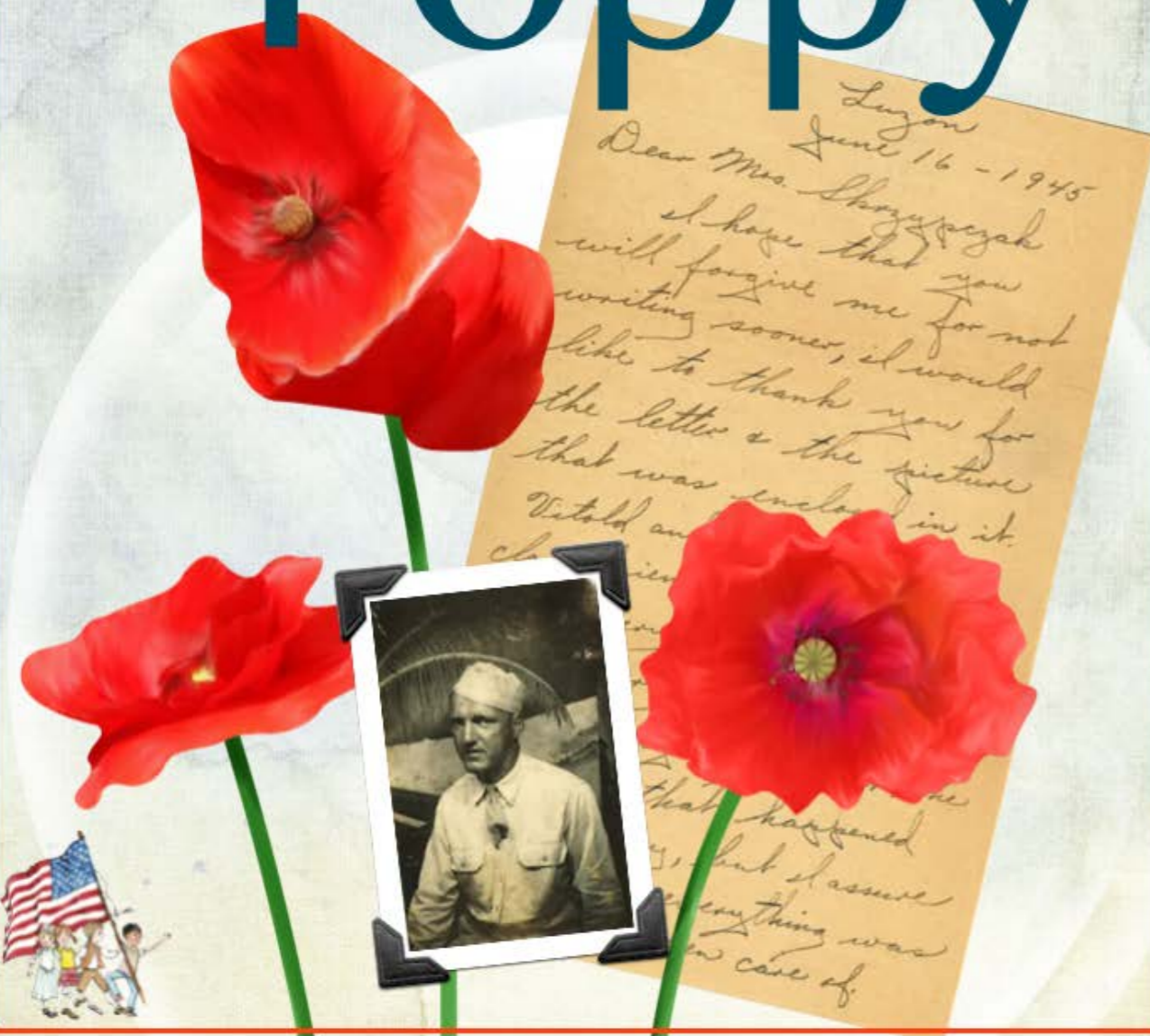
[http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-w7ij6eCz7v4/UYje5h4S\\_uI/AAAAAAAAADHI/z07jUjgbm8M/s1600/IMG\\_3670.JPG](http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-w7ij6eCz7v4/UYje5h4S_uI/AAAAAAAAADHI/z07jUjgbm8M/s1600/IMG_3670.JPG)  
[http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-Cq06Rlz4XMQ/T-9YVzUWkdI/AAAAAAAAACCY/49HG3C\\_qfgQ/s1600/DSCN5059.jpg](http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-Cq06Rlz4XMQ/T-9YVzUWkdI/AAAAAAAAACCY/49HG3C_qfgQ/s1600/DSCN5059.jpg)

**Vitold Skrzypczak:** Images scanned and photos of Mr. Vitold Skrzypczak used with permission from the Skrzypczak family.

**Map of Chicago:** <http://0.tqn.com/d/usatravel/1/0/N/4/-/-/ILonUSmap.png>



# Miracle of the Poppy



We Are  
Liberty  
Kids

## Lesson Plan

written by Molly Foster  
& designed by Heidi Tribe

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[wearelibertykids@gmail.com](mailto:wearelibertykids@gmail.com)