In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae, May 1915

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.
After reading the poem ‘In Flanders Field’, an American woman, Miss Monica Michael from Good Hope in Georgia – credited with conceiving the idea of using poppies as a symbol of remembrance – wrote this famous reply in November 1918.

We shall keep the faith
Oh! You who sleep in Flanders fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew . . .
We cherish too, the poppy red,
That grows on fields where valour led . . .
Fear not that ye have died for naught,
We’ve learned the lesson that you taught,
In Flanders field.