

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026

They Were Young, Just Like Us

Yarra Hills Secondary College

Narrators:

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A copy of your script along with pronunciation and pacing can be
found by going to

<https://onlineteacher.education/scripts/>

1. Acknowledgement of Country

VISUAL – A peaceful Australian landscape, slowly transitioning to the Australian flag.

BILAL

We respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation, who are the Traditional Owners of the land on which Yarra Hills Secondary College's campuses are located, and pay our respect to their Elders past, present and to indigenous people with us today.

2. Why We Remember

VISUAL – Historical footage of Australian soldiers marching, followed by photographs of Australian servicemen and nurses during the First World War. Slowly fade to a field of red poppies.

AMBER

On the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the
eleventh month, in 1918, the guns fell silent across the
Western Front.

After more than four years of devastating conflict, the
First World War had come to an end.

Today, on Remembrance Day, we pause to remember
those who served, those who suffered, and those who
never returned home.

We remember not only those who died in the First
World War, but all Australians who have served and
sacrificed in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping
operations since.

3. They Were Young, Just Like Us

VISUAL – A photograph of young Australian soldiers smiling at the
camera before departure. Gradually transition to images of
soldiers in uniform, young nurses, troopships, and the battlefields
of France and Belgium.

PAVNEET

Look carefully at the faces in these photographs.

They are not so different from ours.

They were young men and women, with families,
friendships, hopes and dreams.

Some were only eighteen or nineteen years old. Others
were barely older than you and I.

They laughed with their friends. They played sport. They
enjoyed music. They dreamed about their futures.

They had plans for their lives.

AMY

But war changed everything.

Young Australians left their homes and families to serve
in places far from everything they knew.

Soldiers endured the mud, cold, fear and terrible
violence of the trenches.

Nurses worked through exhausting days and nights,
caring for the wounded, comforting the dying, and
witnessing suffering that few of us can imagine.

Some returned home carrying injuries and memories
that would remain with them for the rest of their lives.

And many never came home at all.

VISUAL – Photographs of Australian war graves, nurses tending wounded soldiers, and rows of crosses.

BILAL

More than 60,000 Australians lost their lives during the
First World War.

Behind every one of those numbers was a person.

Someone's son. Someone's daughter.

A brother, a sister, a friend.

Someone who was loved.

Someone whose future was cut short.

4. Why It Matters to Us Today

VISUAL: Slowly transition from historical photographs to images of present-day Australian students: walking to school, studying, laughing with friends, playing sport and enjoying time together.

AMBER

Today, we live in a country where we enjoy freedoms and opportunities that we can easily take for granted.

We can attend school, express our opinions, make choices about our future, and live our lives in relative peace and security.

These freedoms are precious.

They have been protected and defended through the service and sacrifice of generations of Australians.

PAVNEET

We should never assume that peace is guaranteed.

For many young Australians who went to war, the future they had imagined was never realised.

They never came home to finish their studies.

They never began the careers they had dreamed about.

Some never married, raised children, or grew old alongside their friends.

Their lives remind us just how precious our own opportunities are.

AMY

Remembrance Day is not about celebrating war.

It is about recognising its terrible cost.

It is about honouring courage, service and sacrifice.

And it is about understanding our responsibility to build
a world where future generations do not have to endure
the same suffering.

BILAL

So, as we remember today, we ask you to think about
those young Australians.

Not simply as names in a history book.

Not simply as faces in an old photograph.

But as real people.

People who were young, just like us.

5. The Red Poppy

VISUAL: Close-up photographs of red poppies growing among the
graves and fields of Flanders.

AMBER

The red poppy has become one of the most recognised
symbols of remembrance.

During the First World War, red poppies grew across the
disturbed battlefields of France and Belgium, including
the region known as Flanders.

Their bright red flowers stood in striking contrast to the
destruction left by the fighting.

Today, the poppy reminds us of those who lost their
lives and of the sacrifice made by so many.

6. In Flanders Fields

VISUAL: A photograph of Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae,
followed by images of the battlefields, poppies and military
cemeteries.

PAVNEET

On the 3rd of May 1915, a Canadian military doctor,
Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, wrote a poem
following the death of a fellow soldier and friend during
the Second Battle of Ypres.

The poem, In Flanders Fields, has become one of the
most enduring expressions of remembrance.

Its words speak to us across more than a century.

AMY

In Flanders Fields by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae.

(Pause)

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.

(Pause)

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.

(Pause)

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.

7. The Ode of Remembrance

VISUAL: A slow sequence of young Australian soldiers and nurses, fading to the Australian War Memorial and the Roll of Honour.

BILAL

We now honour those who served and those who gave
their lives, through the words of the Ode of
Remembrance.

Written by Laurence Binyon in 1914, these words have
become a solemn promise that their sacrifice will not
be forgotten.

AMBER

They went with songs to the battle, they were young.
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow,
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

PAVNEET

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,

We will remember them.

BILAL – AMBER – PAVNEET - AMY

We will remember them.

PAVNEET

Lest we forget.

BILAL – AMBER – PAVNEET - AMY

Lest we forget.

8. The Last Post and One Minute's Silence

VISUAL: A single red poppy against a dark background, followed by a slow fade to a still image of the Australian flag at half-mast.

AMY

We now invite all students and staff to stand.

As we listen to the Last Post and observe one minute's silence, we ask you to reflect on the lives of those who served and sacrificed so much.

Think of their courage.

Think of their families.

Think of the futures they never had the opportunity to experience.

And think of the responsibility we share to honour their memory.

Please stand quietly as we pay our respects with one minute's silence after the playing of the Last Post.

AUDIO: THE LAST POST

AUDIO: THE ROUSE

9. Australian National Anthem

VISUAL: The Australian flag, slowly waving.

BILAL

Please remain standing for the Australian National Anthem.

AUDIO: ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR

Play the Australian National Anthem, with lyrics displayed on screen.

10. Closing

VISUAL: Return to a photograph of young Australian soldiers, slowly dissolving into an image of present-day students at Yarra Hills Secondary College.

AMBER

Thank you for joining us in commemorating
Remembrance Day.

Today, we have remembered those who gave so much,
and especially those whose lives ended when they were
still young.

As we return to our classes, let us carry with us a
deeper appreciation of the opportunities we enjoy and
the peace we must never take for granted.

Thank you for being part of our Remembrance Day
commemoration.

Lest we forget.

VISUAL: Fade to black with the words:

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

LEST WE FORGET