World War One
Chatterbooks Activity Pack

Reading and activity ideas for your Chatterbooks group
Fiction, non-fiction and poetry about World War 1 for Chatterbooks groups of all ages

About this pack
In this World War 1 Chatterbooks pack you’ll find a selection of books for your Chatterbooks groups to read and discuss – plus further book suggestions, useful website addresses, and activity and discussion ideas.
Several of the books and activities are particularly suitable for young people in year 7 and above – we’ve identified an interest age for each title. And with a number of the activities you can adapt and develop content to what works best for your group.
The pack is brought to you by The Reading Agency and their publisher partnership Children’s Reading Partners

Chatterbooks [www.readinggroups.org/chatterbooks] is a reading group programme for children aged 4 to 14 years. It is coordinated by The Reading Agency and its patron is author Dame Jacqueline Wilson. Chatterbooks groups run in libraries and schools, supporting and inspiring children’s literacy development by encouraging them to have a really good time reading and talking about books.

The Reading Agency is an independent charity working to inspire more people to read more through programmes for adults, young people and Children – including the Summer Reading Challenge, and Chatterbooks. See www.readingagency.org.uk

Children’s Reading Partners is a national partnership of children’s publishers and libraries working together to bring reading promotions and author events to as many children and young people as possible.

Contents
A selection of Fiction, Non-fiction and Poetry titles 2
Useful websites for finding out more about World War 1 10
Discussion and activity ideas: 11

- Things to discuss 11
- Your family at the time of World War 1 12
- Animals and birds playing their part 13
- Words and slang used by soldiers 14
- World War 1 Songs 16
- World War 1 Posters 17
- What was it like? Diaries and letters 18
- What was it like? The Christmas Day truce 19
- The theatre of war 19
- What’s at your local museum? 20
- Remembering 20

For help in planning your Chatterbooks meeting, have a look at these Top Tips for a Successful Session
Fiction

Sam Angus  Soldier Dog  Macmillan  978-1447220053  9+ into teenage

Stanley's dad hasn't been the same since his wife died and his eldest son went off to fight in the war. Stanley's only friend is his dad's prizewinning greyhound, Rocket. But one day Rocket escapes, and the result is a litter of non-thoroughbred puppies that Da says will all have to be drowned, even Stanley's favourite puppy, Soldier. Stanley is so angry with his father that he runs away and enlists in the army to train as a messenger dog handler, and despite being far too young he's soon heading to France with a Great Dane called Bones by his side. As the fighting escalates and Stanley experiences the horrors of war, he comes to realise that the loyalty of his dog is the one thing he can rely on. But his father hasn't given up on him, and extraordinary circumstances will bring them together once more . . .

Sam Angus grew up in Spain. She studied Literature at Trinity College, Cambridge and taught A level English before becoming a Ski Wear designer. She lives between London & Exmoor with children, horses and dogs.

A Taste: Since Mother had died Tom had been brother, friend and father to him. Then the day he'd turned seventeen he'd enlisted and he's come home, and with one hand on each of his brother's shoulders, he'd said, 'I'm off, Stanley. Tomorrow. Look after our da. And I'll come back for you.' Da had at first grown silent. Then his grief turned to anger, his long, menacing silences interrupted by sudden, violent rages as his love for Stanley changed to indifference, then to wounding scorn. Stanley would remember the golden afternoons when he and Tom and Da had lain like hares in folds of soft brown grass as Da taught them to make reed whistles and sound the song of the curlew...

(There is a lovely description of Stanley's feelings for his dog:
Stanley spun on a Catherine wheel of love and pride...) 

Linda Newbery  Tilly's Promise  Barrington Stoke  978-1781122938  12+

A beautiful and timeless story about the uncertainty and destruction caused by war. Tilly is a young nurse doing her best to help in the war effort. When she hears her brother Georgie must go to the front line in France she is devastated. Georgie isn't like other people - he has learning difficulties and doesn't understand what the war means. Tilly asks her sweetheart Harry to keep Georgie safe. But they soon learn that the nature of war makes any promise hard to keep

Linda Newbery began by writing teenage fiction, but has now written for all ages. She won the Costa Children's Book Prize and has twice been shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal, as well as for the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize. She lives in rural Oxfordshire, with her husband, three cats and two chickens.

A Taste: ...But I also knew that 'killed instantly' were often just words the army used to save relatives from knowing that their son, brother or husband had died a horrible death. Was Harry hiding something? And he hadn't said anything about me in the letter, not once.
That evening I spent a long time writing to him...  This title will be published in January 2014
Anne Perry  Rose of No Man’s Land  Barrington Stoke  
978-1842994870  12+
Rosie is in trouble at school again - and only because she struggles with reading. When Rosie picks up an old watch in an antique shop, it transports her to a WWI Red Cross hospital. As a nurse she listens to the men's stories and meets Edith Cavell - who helps soldiers to escape from the Germans. When Rosie learns of Edith Cavell's arrest, she has to make a tricky decision - The second book in the brand new Timepiece series.

Author of the William Monk and Thomas Pitt series of novels, Anne Perry is one of the Times' '100 Masters of Crime' and has over 25 million books in print worldwide. She won an 'Edgar' award for her story, Heroes in 2007. She lives in Portahomack, Ross-shire.

A Taste: The next morning Rosie was caught by surprise when Edith Cavell herself came around the ward as Rosie changed Jack’s bandage. Rosie looked at her with interest. She was quite old and not pretty in a normal way, perhaps she never had been but there was a kind of beauty in her face anyway. It was something to do with strength, how sure she was about what she believed, what she cared about. It was as if she had finished worrying about herself and was ready to put all her energy into helping other people.

James Riordan  When the Guns Fall Silent  OUP  
978-0192735706  10+
Jack, standing among the war graves, with his grandson, sees a face he recognizes. Suddenly, it’s 1914 again and he’s a young lad back in the trenches. Visions of killing and misery come to him with horrible clarity. But then Jack remembers too the incredible moment when the guns fell silent for a short time, and fighting gave way to football on the frozen ground of No-Man’s-Land. This amazing story, based on true facts from the First World War, and with very graphic descriptions, will transport readers back to the war fields of France and show that even in times of conflict and extreme sadness, there is always hope.

James Riordan (1936 – 2012) grew up in Portsmouth during the war. After doing his National Service in the RAF, where he learnt Russian, he gained degrees from Birmingham, London and Moscow, then worked as a translator in Moscow. From 1989 he was Professor of Russian Studies at Surrey University. He wrote over 30 books and his first novel for children, Sweet Clarinet, won the NASEN Award and was shortlisted for the Whitbread Children’s Book Award.

A Taste: (Jack’s diary Nov 1914) 8pm – Expecting an attack at any moment. Talk of recapturing the trenches with bayonets. Where are the officers? None around. Left to ourselves. No sleep, no water, impossible to move out of the hole, even show heads above trench. Afternoon and evening dreadful, inferno of fire. Surrounded by corpses...
10pm – Big commotion, red and white flares, chatter of machine guns, thunder of artillery, 400 yards away.
Non-fiction – including true stories told in narrative

**Terry Deary  World War 1 Tales: The Last Flight**  
978-1408191682  7+
Stories of the First World War from the bestselling Terry Deary, author of the hugely successful Horrible Histories. France 1917 - the war in the air. Photographer Alfred Adams was born 1 June 1896 and became an air observer in WW1, taking pictures over enemy lines. He was shot down by the famous 'Red Baron' Manfred von Richthofen over France along with his pilot Donald Stewart on 5 April 1917. They landed across enemy lines and both survived as prisoners of war. The tale tells how Alfred ended up spending his 21st birthday in a German prisoner of war camp, where he was visited by the Red Baron himself. A fascinating look at the First World War in the air, from both sides. See also **The War Game** in the same series – the WW1 Christmas truce and football game.

**A Taste:** The Germans have a new way of fighting. They fly in a big group they call a ‘Circus’ – but Manfred von Richthofen is no clown. It was just our luck that we were flying in his part of the sky. And it was bad luck that the sun was shining that morning. Donald gave the signal and we headed off to the German side to take our photos.

**Mick Manning & Brita Granstrom  Charlie’s War- Illustrated**  
Franklin Watts/Hachette/Imperial War Museum  
978-1445110332  8+
Mick Manning's grandfather joined the army in 1914 and served right through World War One. Fighting in the artillery on the front line in Greece, Egypt, Palestine and France, Charlie lived to tell his tale. Here Mick and Brita tell us about Charlie's War, illustrating his story with stunning artwork, period scraps and artefacts. They bring alive for children the 'war to end all wars', from the trenches and the guns to the friendships and songs the soldiers shared.

Mick Manning studied Illustration at the Royal College of Art in London. He has written and illustrated over 60 books, mostly with his partner Brita Granstrom. Their first book, *The World is Full of Babies*, won the Smarties Silver Prize in 1996. Both *Roman Fort* and *Viking Longship* were shortlisted for the English Association 4-11 Awards and *Greek Hero* won in 2008. Mick and Brita live in the Scottish Borders.

**A Taste:** But Loos wasn’t for us! After more training around the River Somme we were ordered to the port of Marseilles to embark for Greece and the Salonika Front. We arrived at a camp some joker had called ‘Happy Valley.’ But it was no Greek holiday! We endured snow blizzards so cold that men lost fingers and toes to frostbite; then, when the summer arrived, it became feverishly hot. A hard time we had of it fighting the Bulgarian Army in those hills.
Michaela Morgan  Respect!  Barrington Stoke  
978-1842999899  12+

Walter Tull (Tully) is one of Britain's unsung heroes. This fascinating biography tells of his life as an orphan, as a Premier League football player and finally, as an army officer during the First World War. An incredible and moving story that describes how a poor orphan became the first black officer in the British army.

Michaela Morgan has worked as a teacher and as a writer in residence in prisons. She has been shortlisted for a Blue Peter Award and a Children's Book Award and also won a UK Reading Association Award. Michaela spends half her year in Brighton and the other half keeping warm in France

A Taste: Tully went to the Somme. The worst battle of the war and he was in it...On one morning in the Battle of the Somme this is what happened.
Nearly 20,000 (twenty thousand!) British men were killed.
Over 35,000 (Yes, that’s right, thirty five thousand) were wounded...In all nearly 60,000 men were killed, wounded or lost - in just one morning
That’s the same number of men as two sell-out crowds at Spurs home ground.
Think of it. Sixty thousand men lost and what did they win? They won a few yards of mud.

See also this book about Tully, also by Michaela Morgan:

Michaela Morgan  Walter Tull’s Scrapbook  Frances Lincoln  978-1847804914  7+

The inspirational true story of Walter Tull’s life is vividly reimagined here in scrapbook form, drawing on photographs, documents and records of his life. Born in Kent, in 1888, Walter Tull became not just the first black British professional outfield football player – for Tottenham Hotspur and Northampton Town - but also the first black officer in the British Army. His leadership and courage in the trenches of the First World War won him a recommendation for a Military Cross that was never awarded because of his skin colour.

This story takes the reader from his childhood in an orphanage, through his footballing years, to his eventual tragic death, aged 29, on the Somme.

And this book by Michael Morpurgo is also about Walter Tull, told as a story:

A Medal for Leroy  HarperCollins  978-0007339686  8+
At the turn of the 20th century four brothers were born to the Baker family, Lionel, Arthur, Maurice and Harold. Over a hundred years later Eliza, one of Arthur Baker's great-grandchildren, and her mother, Sarah, decided to find out about these ancestors. They delved into the past to uncover for themselves the story of Lionel, Arthur and Maurice during the First World War.

Using photographs, letters sent from the Western Front, a diary written in a prisoner of war camp and other documentary evidence, Eliza and Sarah uncover their fascinating family history of the First World War.

**A Taste:** (Excerpts from some of Maurice’s letters) – *You might also send out a pheasant, or some partridges or even a chicken already cooked and the etcs. I hear a very good way to keep them fresh is to put slices of raw onion all over the chicken or pheasant…*

*…in parcels, if you always send cigarettes, chocolates, cake, potted meat. I don’t know whether you can get them or not but breakfast sausages are jolly good. A lot of the fellows have them sent out…*

*…They have shelled us 3 or 4 times with a few small shells at different times. All you do is keep down low, light a cigarette & wait till they finish…I have felt worse many times in England on a dark night when the birds suddenly rustle in the bushes.*

---

**Tony Robinson’s Weird World of Wonders – World War 1**

*Macmillan* 978-1447227717 8+

Tony Robinson gives you a powerful – and informative – picture of World War 1, with all the most important, funny, strange, amazing, entertaining, smelly and disgusting bits about this war.

Find out everything you ever needed to know about World War I in this brilliant action-packed, fact-filled book, including: ‘How it all started’, ‘How to build a trench’; ‘Why dogs were such good messengers’; ‘How plastic surgery was invented’; ‘Why you needed a gas mask’, and ‘The War all over the world’.

Tony Robinson has written many books on historical subjects, including *The Worst Children’s Jobs in History*. He has written several TV series for children, including *Maid Marian and her Merry Men*, for which he received a BAFTA and a Royal Television Award. He presents Channel 4’s *Time Team* series.

---

**Alex Woolf**

*Past in Pictures: a photographic view of World War One*  
*Wayland/Hachette/The National Archives* 978-0750278409 8+

What were conditions like in the trenches, what did the soldiers eat and what fighting strategies did they follow? This archive gives a glimpse of what life was like in World War One, through photographs, posters, leaflets, and official documents. At the end of the book there are questions to ask and points to explore about the pictures.
Alex Woolf studied history at Essex University, and has written and edited many 20th century history titles for young people.

**A Taste:** During World War 1, German U-boats (submarines) sank many ships carrying food and other supplies to Britain, causing severe shortages. This poster uses a violent image (German being punched between the eyes) to emphasise the seriousness of the crisis Britain faced. It calls on people who are not eligible to fight, such as women, or older men, to enrol for war work, so that fit young men working in factories can go to the front.

**Poetry**

**Gaby Morgan (ed) Poems from the First World War**

Macmillan Children’s Books/Imperial War Museum 978-1447226161

This is a moving and powerful collection of poems written by soldiers, nurses, mothers, sweethearts and family and friends who experienced WWI from different standpoints. It records the early excitement and patriotism, the bravery, friendship and loyalty of the soldiers, and the heartbreak, disillusionment and regret as the war went on to damage a generation. It includes poems from Wilfred Owen, Rupert Brooke, Vera Brittain, Eleanor Farjeon, Edward Thomas, Laurence Binyon, John McCrae, Siegfried Sassoon and many more.

Gaby Morgan has compiled many bestselling anthologies, including Read Me and Laugh: A Funny Poem for Every Day of the Year, Fairy Poems - which was short-listed for the CLPE Award - and A First Poetry Book with Pie Corbett.

The Imperial War Museum was founded in 1917 to collect and display material relating to the ‘Great War’, which was still being fought. Today IWM is unique in its coverage of conflicts, especially those involving Britain and the Commonwealth, from the First World War to the present.

The cherry trees bend over and are shedding
On the old road where all that passed are dead,
Their petals, strewing the grass as for a wedding
This early May morn when there is none to wed.

**Edward Thomas**  **The Cherry Trees**

...Ev’rybody’s doing
Something for the War,
Girls are doing things
They’ve never done before,
Go as ’bus conductors,
Drive a car or van,
All the world is topsy-turvy
Since the War began

**Nina Macdonald Sing a Song of War-time**
### More fiction and non-fiction about World War One

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-fiction</th>
<th>Fiction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jim Eldridge</strong></td>
<td><strong>John Boyne</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The Trenches: a First World War Soldier</em></td>
<td><em>Stay Where You Are and Then Leave</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholastic (My Story)</td>
<td>Random House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Michael Foreman</strong></td>
<td><strong>Teresa Breslin</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The Amazing Tale of Ali Pasha</em></td>
<td><em>Remembrance</em>**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Templar</td>
<td>Corgi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Michael Foreman</strong></td>
<td><strong>Penelope Farmer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>War Game</em></td>
<td><em>Charlotte Sometimes</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavilion Children’s Books</td>
<td>Vintage Children’s Classics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Michael Foreman</strong></td>
<td><strong>Michael Morpurgo</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>War Game – DVD</em></td>
<td><em>Private Peaceful</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revelation Films</td>
<td>HarperCollins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lynn Huggins-Cooper</strong></td>
<td><strong>Michael Morpurgo</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>One Boy’s War</em></td>
<td><em>The Best Christmas Present in the World</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frances Lincoln</td>
<td>Egmont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ann Kramer</strong></td>
<td><strong>Michael Morpurgo</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Women and War</em></td>
<td><em>War Horse</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be published April 2014</td>
<td>Egmont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Valerie Wilding</strong></td>
<td><strong>Marcia Williams</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Road to War: a First World War Girl's Diary</em></td>
<td><em>Archie’s War</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholastic (My Story)</td>
<td>Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marcia Williams</strong></td>
<td><strong>Michael Morpurgo</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fiction</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fiction</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Penelope Farmer</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fiction</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*** For age 12+</td>
<td><strong>Fiction</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**For age 12+**
Websites for finding out more about World War One

The Home Front 1914-18
Life in Britain during the war – the Home Front saw a massive change in the role of women, rationing, the bombing of parts of Britain by the Germans (the first time civilians were targeted in war), conscientious objectors, and strikes by discontented workers.
www.historylearningsite.co.uk/home_front_1914_to_1918.htm

BBC pages
These are especially suitable for young people aged 12+
www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/britain_wwone/ - the Home Front
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/worldwarone/ - read and listen to stories of the war from people who lived it

The Imperial War Museum (IWM)
This is the first of IWM’s new First World War online learning resources for young people, focusing on Recruitment and Conscription, now available. More resources soon to be released.
http://www.iwm.org.uk/learning/resources/recruitment-and-conscription

The National Archives
WW1 Topics and lesson ideas for different key stages
http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/early-20th-century.htm

These pages are written for adults but contain useful information
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/firstworldwar/pathways/index.htm

The National Theatre – War Horse
A set of KS2/3 educational materials about WW1, developed around the book/play War Horse
http://www.warhorseonstage.com/education

Wikipedia
For general statistics – http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I_casualties

Researching your family’s involvement in World War One
The following are all useful websites:
www.iwm.org.uk/server/show/nav.6 - downloadable guides from IWM
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/british-army-soldiers-1914-1918.htm - National Archives records
www.1911census.org.uk/1911access.htm - Access the 1911 census for free
www.findmypast.co.uk – a pay-to-view website for census records
www.ancestry.co.uk – a pay-to-view website with census records, records relating to WW1, and register of births, marriages and deaths
Some ideas for your Chatterbooks sessions
Here are some discussion, activity and writing ideas for your Chatterbooks group.

Things to discuss
The books featured in this pack bring up a number of things your group could discuss and find out more about:

Joining up
The age limit for joining up was 19 years but many younger boys got through by lying about their age. In Soldier Dog Stanley is only 14. Why do you think there were no real checks on age? Do you think you could have taken on a soldier’s life in the trenches, at that age?
What kind of things now might get you to pretend to be older so that you can do them?
As well as being 19, you also had to be 5’6” tall with a chest measurement of 34” – but there were no checks on your abilities, and no consideration was taken of any learning difficulties you might have. Tilly’s Promise looks at the sad consequences which could result from this.

The effect of the war on girls’ and women’s lives
What differences did the war make to the lives of girls and women?
What kind of opportunities did it bring? In Tilly’s Promise and Rose of No Man’s Land Rosie and Tilly both become nurses and travel to France.
And what pressures and difficulties – with the main wage-earner away and food and many items in short supply.

Letters home, newspaper pictures, poetry – what was it really like?
From reading stories about the war, such as Soldier Dog and When the Guns were Silent, seeing films like War Horse, and from the massive total of casualties – nearly 10 million soldiers killed and 20 million wounded – you see how terrible conditions were.
Do you think this comes across in the letters home written by soldiers, and in some of the pictures in newspapers? Maurice in Brothers in War tells his mother that he’s felt worse on a dark night in England when birds suddenly rustle. Do you think this is true?
Have a look at the photographs and excerpts from letters in Brothers in War and The Past in Pictures – and any other letters and pictures you find on-line, in your local museum or archives – or in family documents. Talk about what these say to you – might there also be things not being said or shown? If so, why might people be holding things back?
Conscientious objectors (C.O.s)
These were people who did not want to fight because they were against war in general or for religious reasons – not everyone was as enthusiastic about the war as the government would have liked. Many C.O.s contributed to the war as medical orderlies or farm workers.
Women used to give out white feathers - a sign of cowardice - to young men who hadn’t joined the British army.
Look at this poem from *Poems from the First World War* - what are the two mothers feeling?

‘Poor woman, weeping as they pass,
Yon brave recruits, the nation’s pride,
You mourn some gallant boy, alas!
Like mine who lately fought and died?’

‘Kind stranger, not for soldier son,
Of shame, not grief, my heart will break.
Three stalwarts have I, but not one
Doth risk his life for England’s sake!’

*The Two Mothers*  
Mathilda Betham-Edwards

Your family at the time of World War One
See if people in your group can find out anything about their family during 1914-18. Ask parents and relatives if they have any stories and information, and maybe even photos and letters, from their parents and grandparents.
Try the websites suggested in this pack on p.
If a family is still living in the same town or area, try your local Archives centre. *Brothers at War* and *Charlie’s War Illustrated* are both true stories put together from old photos, documents, and reminiscence.
Share the information in the group – it may be possible also to put together a story from what people find out.
Animals and birds playing their part

With man-made communication systems – such as the telegraph – being very vulnerable and unreliable, **dogs and pigeons** were used extensively. Pigeons scored a 95% success rate of getting their message through and returning from their mission. Messenger dogs also played a vital part in communications on the front – see *Soldier Dog* for a vivid and moving story about these dogs and their trainers.

Find out more about pigeons in WW1 – and also can you find another bird used in the trenches? – see

http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/pigeons_and_world_war_one.htm

Find out about WW1 messenger dogs -

http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/dogs_in_world_war_one.htm

Horses were also indispensable - for the cavalry, pulling guns in the artillery, transporting provisions and ammunition, and pulling ambulances. Over 8 million horses on all sides died in the war.

To find out more about horses in WW1 there is useful information, plus activity ideas, in the National Theatre’s education pack about their stage production of Michael Morpurgo’s book *War Horse*

# Words and slang used by soldiers in World War 1

Can you find out what these words and phrases mean? Do we still use any of them today?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word/Phrase</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Big Bertha</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Blighty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Blightly one</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Brass hats</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Bully beef</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Chat/Chatting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Coffin nails</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Dogfight</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Doss</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Flak</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Kip</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Lucifer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. No Man’s Land</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Over the top</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Put a sock in it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Spud</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Tommy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Whizzbang</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Answers

1. German gun
2. England
3. A wound which would get you home to England
4. Officers
5. Corned beef
6. Louse/getting the lice off yourself and out of your clothes
7. Cigarettes
8. Air combat at close quarters
9. Bed down & try to get some sleep
10. Anti-aircraft fire
11. Sleep
12. A match
13. The waste land/un-owned territory between the two opposing front lines
14. Go into attack – out of the trench and over the parapet
15. Shut up!
16. Potato
17. British soldier
18. High velocity shell – makes a whistling noise before explosion
World War 1 Songs

In *Charlie’s War Illustrated* Charlie says: ‘We’d sing silly songs about the terrible things that were happening to us. It helped!’

Here are the titles and first lines of some of those songs – see if you can find the rest of the lyrics for these songs, and the tunes (try Youtube).

Write them down and then have a go at singing them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Songs in World War One</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hush, here comes a whizzbang...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It’s a long way to Tipperary...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oh, oh, oh what a lovely war!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag.....</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
World War I Posters
In 1914 there was no television, internet, or mobile phones as we know them, and radio was in its early days. To get their messages across to everyone and try to influence people, governments made especial use of posters put up in all public places. Have a look at the posters below – in your group talk about what the posters are saying and what they are trying to get you to think, and do. Compare the two ‘Your Country Needs You’ posters – which do you think would be more effective? (You can enlarge the posters and print to A4 to share across the group.)
What was it like?  Diaries and letters
The books featured in this pack – and many more in your library and school collections – will provide a wealth of detail about World War One to inspire children’s creative writing.
Two frameworks for this are a diary entry or a letter, in which young people can then imagine and describe an aspect of life at this time. This could be from the point of view of a girl or a boy, man or woman, away fighting, or at home.

Here’s a worksheet to help in gathering ideas for your writing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is your name?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How old are you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who’s in your family?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where does your family live?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you writing a letter or a diary?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If it’s a letter, who are you writing to?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where are you now, as you write this?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are you doing?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What can you see?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What can you hear?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What can you smell/touch/taste?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are you thinking?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are you feeling?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is your wish or dream?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What was it like?  The Christmas Day Truce
Several of the books in this pack describe the Christmas truce in 1914 when on Christmas Day there was a lull in fighting, and along the line troops from each side sang carols, communicated with each other, and many also exchanged tokens and addresses. In at least one place the two sides joined in a football match – as pictured and described in Michael Foreman’s *War Game*. There are also descriptions of the truce here: [http://www.1914-1918.net/truce.htm](http://www.1914-1918.net/truce.htm) and [http://www.christmastruce.co.uk/football.html](http://www.christmastruce.co.uk/football.html)

Talk about what happened and then get one person to volunteer to be in the ‘hot seat’ as a soldier who took part in that Christmas day football game. The other children can then ask him questions about what happened and what it was like.

World War One - The Theatre of War
We always think first of the war on the Western front, in France and Belgium – but this was indeed a world war with fighting also on Eastern, Middle Eastern, and Italian fronts. Charlie, in *Charlie’s War Illustrated*, fights in Salonika in Greece, and in Egypt. In 1917 the USA entered the war. Fighting took place on land and sea – and for the first time in history – in the air. Find a map which shows the full extent of the war. You might use this excerpt from *Poems from the First World War* for discussion. These American troops were sailing from the States to fight in France – joining soldiers from countries including Britain, France, Belgium, India, Australia, Canada, New Zealand.

Troopship: Mid-Atlantic

... staring at the magic with eyes adream
That never till now have looked upon the sea,
Boys from the Middle West lounge listlessly
In the unlanthorned darkness, boys who go,
Beckoned by some unchallengeable dream,
To unknown lands to fight an unknown foe.

W.W.Gibson  On the S.S. Baltic July 1917
What’s in your local museum?
Museums everywhere are putting together exhibitions and activities to commemorate World War 1, using their local collections to show what life was like both at home and on the fighting fronts.
Get together with your local museum to plan special Chatterbooks sessions and activities linking in with the WW1 stories, poems and information books you are reading.
For example Calderdale libraries ran an activity with their museum featuring a soldier’s greatcoat and the contents of the pockets – eg. paybook, identity tag, family pictures, a letter, cigarettes..... Lots of triggers here for young people’s writing and stories to be told.

Remembering

‘In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row...’ John McRae

When the war was over the red poppy was one of the few flowers still to grow on the otherwise barren battlefields in France and became used as a symbol to remember all the people killed in the war.

We use other flowers and coloured ribbons for other remembrances – your group could talk about this practice and collect a list of flowers, ribbons, and other symbols worn, and what they signify –

Eg:
- White poppy
- Shamrock
- Daffodil
- Pink Ribbon