

# HACKMATAACK

## 2006

### ***A Poppy is to Remember***

by Heather Patterson

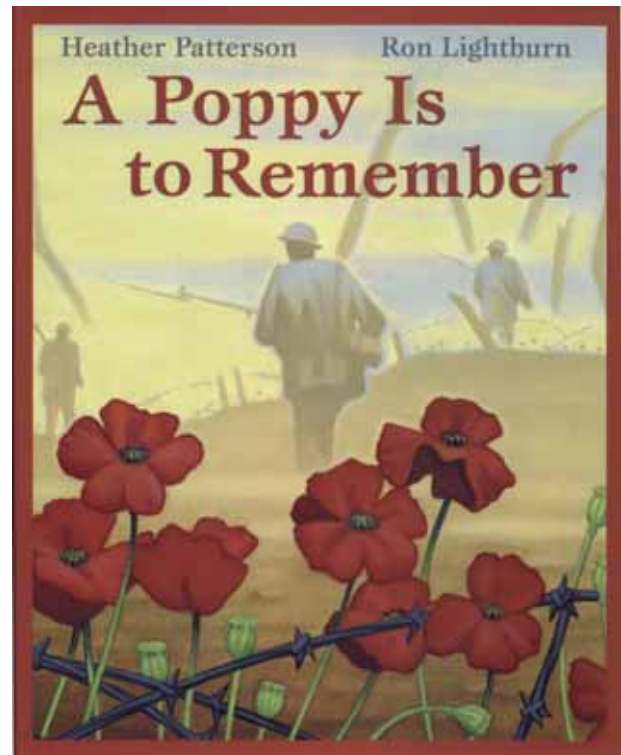
For several years I had been aware that in Canada there was a need to answer young children's questions like: "Why is that man selling those red things?" "Why is everyone wearing a red flower?", etc. There were no books for younger children about the poppy and Remembrance Day and the origins of both in Canada.

In my mind I fixed on the phrase, "A poppy is to remember." I used that as my inspiration. To me, it was important to keep the text simple for young ones, yet try to cover all that the poppy stands for.

Then, because I thought that parents and teachers would be sharing this book with children, I wanted to provide background material.

When I thought about it, it fell naturally into two sections: 1) the poppy's connection with John McCrae's poem, *In Flanders Fields*, and with the First World War, and 2) the history of Remembrance Day in Canada from that time to the present.

I dedicated the book to my granddaughter. May she blossom like a bright poppy in a peaceful world.



#### **Thematic links:**

WWI, Flanders fields, Battle of Ypres

Symbols

Commemorations and Memorials

War; Peace

Poetry, famous war poems

John McCrae

Armies and military

#### **Activity Ideas:**

- Research poppies, their life cycles and their habitats. Can you grow some?
- Make huge bright paintings of poppies and fields of poppies to hang in your school hallways for Remembrance Day.
- Think of other events you've heard of, or something that's happened to someone you know.
- Can you think of something that might make a fitting symbol for that event? Why?
- What conflicts are going on in the world today? After learning some details about them, write poems to commemorate them.