



Themes include: war, conflict, peace, hope

Opening words

Are you ready for a story? *(from now on look at the story materials)*

Now we have time and space to breathe.

Let's turn this upside down.

(after everything is out of the box unroll the cloth)

Your story, my story, our story. Let's be curious about this story.

Words	Actions (storyteller's perspective)
There was a land of trees, fields and rivers.	<p><i>Set out 5 trees across the top using the brown rectangle and green leaf shapes.</i></p> <p><i>Move your hand across the middle part of the blanket when you say fields.</i></p> <p><i>Lay out the river using pieces of wavy blue in an arch at the bottom</i></p>
People and animals lived on this land and looked after it.	<p><i>Place the 7 people down in 2's and 3's over the fields.</i></p> <p><i>Place 3 sheep down.</i></p>
Then war came.	<p><i>Place two piles of grey blobs on each side.</i></p>
Bombs destroyed the trees, the fields and the banks of the river. People and animals died.	<p><i>Throw the grey blobs across so they land everywhere.</i></p> <p><i>Change the order of the words depending on what gets hit. When the river is hit move the wavy line slightly to show the bank has been hit and water coming out.</i></p>
They could no longer live on the land.	<p><i>Take the people and animals away.</i></p>
The soldiers from each side came.	<p><i>Arrange 4 discs on one side and 3 on the other. Place the people – who are now soldiers – in 2 lines facing each other.</i></p>
They were ordered to fight each other.	<p><i>Look at each side.</i></p>
The land was flat without places to hide from the bombs and bullets. The soldiers dug ditches called trenches.	<p><i>Look at the land.</i></p>
The mud they dug out made the walls of the trenches.	<p><i>Make the walls of the trenches by placing 2 blocks in front of each line of soldiers and lean up 2 grey blobs against each set.</i></p>
The soldiers lived in the mud. Many died.	<p><i>Lay one soldier from each side down in the trenches.</i></p>
Sometimes the soldiers were ordered to come out of the trenches to fight each other.	<p><i>Move two soldiers out from one side and as they run let them fall dead. Then two from the other side. One falls and the other runs back. Leave one soldier on each side.</i></p>
It was a terrible time.	<p><i>Leave a long silence as you look at the story.</i></p>

Remembrance

Words	Actions (storyteller's perspective)
At last the war ended and the fighting stopped. The soldiers could go home.	<i>Take away the two surviving soldiers from each army. Take away the trenches. Remove the grey blobs and the discs. Leave any grey blobs onto which soldiers have fallen.</i>
The dead were buried.	<i>Make graves for the soldiers - 2 on one side and 3 on the other. Respectfully take each dead soldier placing the person in the palm of your right hand with your left cupped over. Hold the person so the feet are away from you. Take the person to the grave position then hold the person under your left hand and place them on the blanket. Use your right hand to collect a piece of brown felt, to place over the top as you remove your left hand. Remove any remaining grey blobs.</i>
The people and the animals could return.	<i>Place down 5 discs and then 2 people facing each other and 3 sheep.</i>
They rebuilt their homes, the banks of the river, and once again looked after the land.	<i>Put the river back together.</i>
But nothing would ever be the same again. The war had changed everything. Some never wanted to speak of what had happened.	<i>Look at the scene.</i>
After the war, poppies sprang up in the fields. Today poppies can help us remember this war and all wars, and remind us to work for peace.	<i>Place down a poppy in the centre using 4 red petals with a blue dot in the centre. Leave silence.</i>

Wondering *(You are now engaging with the circle so look up)*

Let's be curious about how we feel.

I wonder what part of this story you like?

I wonder what part you don't like?

I wonder what the story reminds you of?

Closing words

(Hold your arms out with the palms of your hands out as if encircling the story.)

For all that's been said and for all that's not been said - thank you.

(At the end put the objects from the story carefully away in reverse order.)

Other elements which may be included in the session

Community Play to reflect together about something particular using the story materials.

Creative response to continue to wonder individually, e.g. create new stories, paint, build, write, dance, walk.

Celebration with food and drink to allow people to connect socially and offer a threshold to leave the session.

Materials for those not using OutoftheBox resources.

If you do not have the OutoftheBox resources you will need:

an underlay on which to tell the story (cream or green) seven wooden people and something for them to stand on, representation of trees, river, bombs, trenches and a poppy.

Suggestions for using the Remembrance story

You may choose to end with two minutes' silence. The story could be followed with a free response by providing open ended materials like paper, paint, clay. Some may wish to play with the story materials.

For more story resources on this theme please go to <https://www.outoftheboxtraining.org/blog/world-refugee-day>.

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