

Veterans' Voices - Ian Forsyth

Activities

1. Surprises, puzzles, similarities and settings

Before you watch the interview with Ian Forsyth:

<http://learning.poppyscotland.org.uk/veday75/vv-ianforsyth/> prepare to take notes. Divide your page into four headings:

SURPRISES – In this section note down anything that you find particularly interesting or surprising in Ian's story.

PUZZLES – in this section, note down anything you don't understand or doesn't really make sense to you. Do you have any questions about what he has said? Are there any words that you don't understand?

SIMILARITIES – does any part of Ian's story remind you of anything? A book or a poem you might have read or a film you might have watched.

DIFFERENCES – how does Ian's story differ from other people's stories about the war or from what you have read in books or seen in films?

Once you have watched the film use your notes to discuss it with others who watched the film with you.

The transcription of Ian's interview will help you to remember the details of the story he told.

2. Finding out more about Ian's story

Read the Teacher's Notes that provide background information and useful links about the topics Ian mentions in his interview.

Draw a timeline of key moments in Ian's life up until the end of WWII. Include the political and world events that were happening at the same time.

How does having background information about the period of history that Ian is talking about, help you to understand his story?

What information did you find most interesting and why?

Why do you think it important is it to record interviews with people who were in the war?

3. **Write a page of Ian's diary**

Select one of the events that Ian describes in his interview and write a diary entry to describe in detail what you imagine happened and how he felt about it.

4. **Write a poem about Ian's life**

Write a poem inspired by Ian's life. It could be about an event he describes or a particular period of his life or it could be about all of his life.

If you have the appropriate equipment, you could make a video of your poem.

5. **Make a presentation about Anne Frank and/or Josef Čapek.**

Both of these people were artists/writers and died in Bergen-Belsen. Research and produce a short presentation about either or both of these people.

6. **Food and health**

Many people starved to death in concentration camps. Sadly, today there are many people who do not have enough food to eat.

Research one of the following topics:

1. What does healthy eating mean and what are the benefits?
2. The dangers of extreme dieting and why it happens
3. The role of food banks in Scotland today
4. Where does our food come from?
5. Famine in developing countries and how we can help

7. **Mental Wellbeing**

Keeping well mentally is just as important as keeping well physically and the two are very connected. List three things that you do to keep yourself well mentally. Now list three things you can do to help others stay well too.

8. **Peace**

What lessons can we learn from World War II and the experiences of people like Ian? How can we prevent wars happening in future and what can we do to help stop the wars that are still happening today? Do you think it's possible?

Research some of the work that is being done today to bring peace to the world. Discuss what you have found with your class. As a class draw up an action plan for what governments, the public and you can do to stop war now and in the future. You could even make a short video about your ideas.

Tweet your action plan and/or video on the school twitter account or post it on the school blog.