

Y7: White Poppies

Knowledge Organiser

When Tom Headley enlists underage in the Great War, he and his childhood friends head straight to the front line as tunnellers. In tragic circumstances, Tom is blamed for the deaths of his comrades. His family and sweetheart back home are shunned by the community.

Keyword	Meaning
Armistice	A formal agreement of warring parties to stop fighting.
Conscription	Compulsory enlistment for the armed forces.
Connotation	An idea associated with a word or thing.
Desertion	The act of illegally leaving the armed forces.
No-man's land	Unoccupied/unclaimed land especially on a battlefield.
Trench	A long, deep hole in the ground to protect from attack.
Tunneller	A person who digs tunnels under enemy trenches to bomb them.
Conscientious objector	A person who, for reasons, consciously (knowingly) objects to serving in the armed forces.
Court Marshall	A court which trials members of the armed forces, who are accused of offences against military law.
Execution	The carrying out of a sentence of death on a condemned person.
Dual narrative	A story told from two different perspectives.

Character	Role
Jenny Clark	A teenager in the modern day carrying out a research project for school
Tom Hedley	An underage village boy who falls in love with Jenny Lucas and enlists in the Great War.
Jenny Lucas	The protagonist of the play. The story follows her romance with Tom and her reaction to his enlistment and death.
Mattie Clark	Tom's best friend and fellow tunneller in the war.
Hannah Lucas/Clark	Jenny's Lucas' sister and the wife of Mattie. She gets pregnant before Mattie goes off to war.
Will Fordham	The son of Lord Fordham who owns the big house where Jenny and Hannah work. He is the officer in charge of Tom's unit.



Theme: Peace and Hope



Theme: Loss and Suffering

Theme: Love and Friendship

Theme: Remembrance



Context – White Poppies

- **WW1** was a global war which started in Europe in 1914 and lasted four years. It is known as one of the deadliest conflicts in History, resulting in over 100 million deaths worldwide.
- **Archduke Franz Ferdinand** was the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary. He and his wife were assassinated in 1914 because he was very wealthy and next in line to the throne. At the time, the Balkans were angered with Austria's annexation (occupation) of Bosnia a few years earlier.
- In 1882, Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy formed the **Triple Alliance**. United Kingdom, France and Russia united in 1907 to form the **Triple Entente**. These alliances stoked tensions throughout Europe and the rest of the world.