

# HOME LEARNING

## **Year 11 – English – Home Learning 8**

### **Spoken Language – Task 1**

Discuss the following questions verbally with someone in your household.

The Christmas Truce of 1914 is a true story.

German and British soldiers called a ceasefire, shared cigarettes and drinks and even had a game of football together.

Sadly, by Christmas day 1915, more sophisticated weapons and poisonous gas were in use. Bitterness had also set in.

A ceasefire then would have been unthinkable.

- Would you have done what the soldiers did?
- Could you have fought again afterwards?
- What does this event tell us about people – and war?

### **Reading – Task 2**

### THE MAN HE KILLED

“HAD he and I but met  
By some old ancient inn,  
We should have sat us down to wet  
Right many a nipperkin !

“But ranged as infantry,  
And staring face to face,  
I shot at him as he at me,  
And killed him in his place.

“I shot him dead because—  
Because he was my foe,  
Just so : my foe of course he was ;  
That's clear enough ; although

“He thought he'd 'list, perhaps,  
Off-hand like—just as I—  
Was out of work—had sold his traps—  
No other reason why.

“Yes ; quaint and curious war is !  
You shoot a fellow down  
You'd treat if met where any bar is,  
Or help to half-a-crown.”

1902.

186

BEYOND

- Wet... a nipperkin – have a drink
- 'Ranged – set against each other, arranged
- Infantry – foot soldiers
- Foe – enemy
- 'List – enlist, join up
- Traps – possessions
- Quaint – strange (usually in a pleasing way)
- Half a crown – old money

Look closely at the poem. What do you think it is all about?

Write a short paragraph explaining your ideas.

### Writing

Write a letter home as one of the soldiers who were part of the Christmas Truce. Within your letter explain what happened and how you felt at the time and now as you are fighting again.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Paragraph 1 – include greeting and questions for the reader, e.g. asking after a loved one or a pet, asking for news from the local village etc

Paragraph 2 – describe what's been happening – the horrors of war and how it's made you feel

Paragraph 3 – describe the Xmas truce and how this has made you feel

Paragraph 4 – memories – describe what you'll miss about not being home for Xmas

Paragraph 5 – sign off your letter with a goodbye and your hopes for the future and when you will next be writing

Yours, \_\_\_\_\_ - insert your name here

