



# Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

April 2018

Topical Activity

White poppies



White poppies are worn in the run-up to Remembrance Day every year by thousands of people in the UK and beyond. White poppies have been worn in this way for over eighty years. The intention was to remember casualties of all wars, with the added meaning of a hope for the end of all wars.

The first white poppies were sold by the Co-operative Women's Guild in 1933. The Peace Pledge Union (PPU) took part in their distribution from 1934, and white poppy wreaths were laid from 1937 as a pledge to peace that war must not happen again.

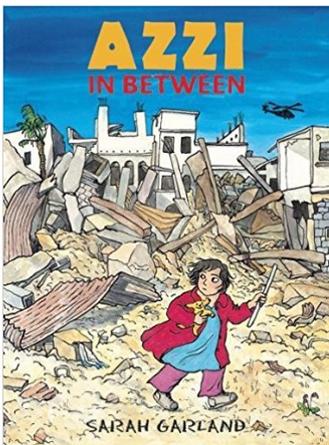
*Resources needed: A copy of *Azzi in between* by Sarah Garland – available from the Quaker Bookshop Tel: 020 7663 1030 <http://bookshop.quaker.org.uk> and a selection of materials to make poppies (see over).*

## What does the white poppy stand for?

The white poppy is a symbol worn by people who want 'no more war'. No-one knows why a white poppy was chosen; it certainly wasn't intended to compete with the red one, only to be different from it. No one knows why, having chosen the poppy, white was the colour selected. Ask the children what they think about it? What does the white colour make them think of? Do they think another colour would be better, and if so, why? Wonder with them what power and associations do different colours have for them?



## Story



Azzi and her parents are in danger. They have to leave their home and escape to another country on a frightening journey by car and boat. In the new country they must learn to speak a new language, find a new home and Azzi must start a new school. Drawing on her own experience of working among refugee families, Sarah Garland tells the story of how war affects more than just those fighting it.

As white poppies remember all those who are casualties of war ask the children if they can think of ways that people, other than soldiers are affected when there has been a war. They might mention people fleeing the violence – refugees – like Azzi. Do they know anyone, or other stories of people who have had to leave their country because of war or how their lives have changed because of it.

In November 2018 it will be 100 years since the end of World War One. This war killed and injured many people. Sadly this has not been a 'war to end all wars' and wars have killed many people since then, many of them civilians.

White poppy wreath photo credit: Barry Martin

## Activity

"Collateral Damage" is a project to honour the victims of wars during and since World War I through making unique textile white poppies, each honouring a particular victim.

During 2018 this white poppy project will develop and prepare to commemorate the centenary of the ending of World War I. Sadly, war has continued somewhere in the world since then, and these days over 90% of the victims are civilians; these are often called "collateral damage" by the military.

As part of the project there is an invitation for individuals or groups to make poppies to honour particular victims that they know of, whether personally or through the news or from other people. Poppies could be sewn, knitted, crocheted, or felted. They need not be pure white, and could be plain or highly decorated, with or without a leaf. There are quite a few patterns and photos of poppies on the

@whitepoppies2018 Facebook page. Or go to Pinterest <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/> and type poppy craft into the search bar or see <http://www.womansweekly.com/knitting/knitted-or-crochet-poppy-13273/>



Perhaps the children could organise a poppy making workshop to make poppies and sell them in aid of the Peace Pledge Union, or another organisation that promotes peace and supports the victims of war and militarisation?

You can share your plans and post photos of your poppies on the Collateral Damage page on Facebook – [www.facebook.com/whitepoppies2018](http://www.facebook.com/whitepoppies2018) along with your stories. You can also email and request leaflets from the project at [collateraldamage2018@gmail.com](mailto:collateraldamage2018@gmail.com)

When finished the poppies could be worn (stitching a brooch pin to the back), given to somebody else, or joined with others to make a wreath to honour a particular group of war victims or to join a local WW1 commemoration in November. Alternatively poppies can be sent in to join a central installation. These should be sent (by 8th October 2018) to: Collateral Damage White Poppies, c/o QPSW, Friends House, 173-177 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.