

## Veterans Day

### Describing Details

**Directions:** Read the following passage from *185 To Go*, a humorous book about school life. Today, the entire school is walking to the town cemetery for a Veterans Day tribute.

At 10:30, the whole school embarked on a walk to Veterans Grove at the town cemetery. We will place little American flags on veterans' graves, say a few brief words, sing a little, and be back in time for lunch: tater tot shish kabob. To keep classes focused and moving forward, the school band used their snare and bass drums, giving us a marching beat.

*Boom!... ba-bup bup Boom!... ba-bup bup Boom!*

Police Chief Pressy pedaled into school on his rickshaw and picked up Captain Rick Washington, guest speaker and commander of local American Legion Post #21. The American Legion is a veterans' organization for military personnel who served in times of war. They formed clubs all across America and contribute to their local communities through such activities as ceremonies, student scholarships, and sporting events. You can always recognize them in a parade by their crisp-clean, dark blue uniforms with matching caps.

As the whole school snaked its way through town, many adults stopped what they were doing and joined our procession. Like Minutemen dropping their farm rakes to join the Battle of Concord, so too were store owners closing their shops and joining us with flags of their own. Our ensemble marched respectfully down Main Street.

The little parade entered the stone wall cemetery, walked past the World War II ceremonial cannon, and into Veterans Grove. The grove is an oval-shaped design, surrounded by tall sycamores. At one end, there is a small, concrete stage for a speaker, and the other end has a solid, 10-foot tall granite monument. Inscribed on the monument are the names of all those from Sandport, who served in wars but never came back. This memorial is one small town's honorable tribute.

"Veterans are a lot of people. It takes a large effort to mobilize an army or navy, and not everyone ends up fighting with a weapon," informed our teacher, Mr. Greene, as he opened the first box of flags. "Many veterans end up serving in supporting roles, towards the overall effort."

It was now 11:00 on November 11; the exact time and date World War I ended in 1918. Captain Washington approached the podium and the ceremony began.

"This is our time to pause from the luxuries of life: cars, phones, and friends and reflect on those who paused their lives for our country. Too many never made it back, never seeing *their* cars, phones, or friends again. Twenty-four of those were from little Sandport. They did their duty and made us all proud. On this day, let us honor and remember veterans all across America, who wore the uniform or helped at the home front."

Principal Sanchez read aloud the 24-names engraved on the monument. The audience nodded in quiet agreement with their heads held high. A light wind kept all the little flags flapping.



Flags on the  
National Mall

### Questions:

1. Describe three events that happened before the ceremonial speech by Captain Washington. (3 sentences) *Chief Pressy picks up Captain Washington. The school and townspeople march to the cemetery. The students plant flags at the cemetery.*
2. Who are three people who showed leadership in the passage? (3 sentences, use "because") *The band showed leadership because they kept the school marching with a drumbeat. The teacher showed leadership by providing flags for students. Captain Washing showed leadership by presenting a memorial speech.*
3. Why is Veterans Day always on November 11? (1 sentence) *It represents the actual date WWI ended.*
4. Cite two sentences using quotes that show how veterans were honored this day. (2 sentences) *"The ensemble marched respectfully down Main Street." "Principal Sanchez read aloud the 24-names engraved on the monument."*
5. Why is it important to remember Veterans and Memorial Day? (≥2 sentences) *Answers vary (respect, honor, and gratitude.)*

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