

## Veterans Day II

### *Describing Details*

**Directions:** Read the following passage from *185 To Go*, a humorous book about school life. The entire school is at the cemetery honoring Veterans Day, and sometimes ceremonies do not go as planned.

Mrs. Jefferson's second grade class silently assembled in front of the legion commander. Mrs. Jefferson hummed the opening note, and the class enthusiastically began singing "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," waving their flags. A flurry of camera flashes went off, documenting the song, with the town newspaper in the front row. The cheerful students appreciated the crowd's applause so much, they felt like singing more. They all simultaneously burst right into "You're a Grand Old Flag," causing a startled Mrs. Jefferson to turn back around and continue directing, as if a second song was part of the program.

As the second song wound down, and before the class of front tooth-missing second graders erupted into a third song, a huge – and I mean *huge* – burst came out of the ceremonial Howitzer M1 cannon at the grove's entrance. *Ka-boom!*

If you were wearing a hat, the shock wave would have been blown it right off your head. Everyone was now standing two-feet away from where they were standing just two-seconds earlier. Not only that, but the front half of the audience was instantly covered in garbage!

After everyone realized they were still alive, and the universe did not implode as was first thought, the crowd looked towards the cannoneer.

"Sorry!" was the meek response from the tall, thin man wearing a denim jacket, quite embarrassed, and shrugging his shoulders apologetically. The man, who just about killed a whole school with fright, was none other than Shrimpy's other uncle, Franklin Roosevelt "Crab Legs" Pepperkorn III.

Crab Legs was supposed to fire the cannon – which was the first time anyone in Sandport has ever heard it – *after* the ceremony. He was so excited to be chosen cannoneer that he already had lit the long, slow burning match. However, when the second graders went into their encore song, the match kept burning. As the match got smaller and smaller, Crab Legs panicked and accidentally lit the cannon fuse. Five seconds later: *Ka-boomie!*

The launching of garbage had to do with years and years of people putting their candy wrappers, stale colas, and used gum down the cannon barrel. As Crab Legs added the gunpowder, and subsequent packing down the powder with a long ramrod, he was also inadvertently packing layers upon layers of trash for maximum explosive potential.

Classmate Ella was quick to make scientific observations, walking among the crud-covered crowd. She inspected sticky wrappers stuck to people's foreheads and chewed gum picked out of various ears. Ella reported her findings to our teacher, Mr. Greene.

"From the candy, I conclude people have been stuffing their trash in there since the late 1980's, when Malt Duds and Senior Mints were more popular among kids. I also noticed the gum was old-school brands of Bubba-Hubba and Bubblerella – watermelon flavor to be precise," reported Ella, wiping gunk from her fingers.

Mr. Greene, who orders his old-school gum online, confirmed Ella's conclusion with a thumbs-up.



**240 mm Howitzer M1**  
"Black Dragon"

### Questions:

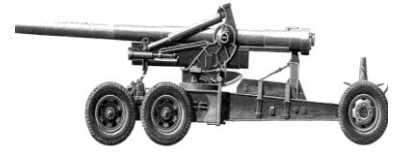
1. Summarize the event in one sentence. (**Use exactly 11 words**) *The school honors veterans at the cemetery, with an unexpected surprise.*
2. Explain the problem and suggest a solution. (**≥5 sentences**) *The problem was the mistimed firing of the cannon. The cannon filled with years of garbage landed on the crowd. One solution is to offer sympathy and an apology to the audience. There is not much that can be done, since it was accidental. The cannon should be capped to prevent trash build-up, in case it is fired again in the future.*
3. After the incident, how would you conclude the ceremony if you were the principal? (**2 sentences**) *If I were the principal, I would ask the second graders to sing again, since it was a happier moment. I would ask for student volunteers to help clean up the mess, and thank the audience for attending a "memorable" event.*
4. Cite three phrases that indicate this is a humorous scene. (**List using quotes**) *"startled Mrs. Jefferson to turn back around and continue directing, as if a second song was part of the program"; "Ka-boomie!"; "sticky wrappers stuck to people's foreheads."*

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1. Summarize the event in one sentence. (**Use exactly 11 words**)
2. Explain the problem and suggest a solution. (**≥5 sentences**)
3. After the incident, how would you conclude the ceremony if you were the principal? (**2 sentences**)
4. Cite three phrases that indicate this is a humorous scene. (**1 sentence**)