

# WORLD WAR I

## A FAMILY AFFAIR



**Tsar Nicholas II**  
**Russia**

**King George V**  
**Great Britain**

**Kaiser Wilhelm**  
**Germany**



## **A Family Affair.**

**Song - Instrumental - Drama -Art Display.**

### **Team Work:**

Divide the class into 5 teams and assign each a verse. Invite each team to decide upon a method of presenting their verse to the rest of the class and also explain why they made their decision.

### **Class Work:**

Prepare an interpretive presentation of *A Family Affair*. This can be the culmination of the five group work.

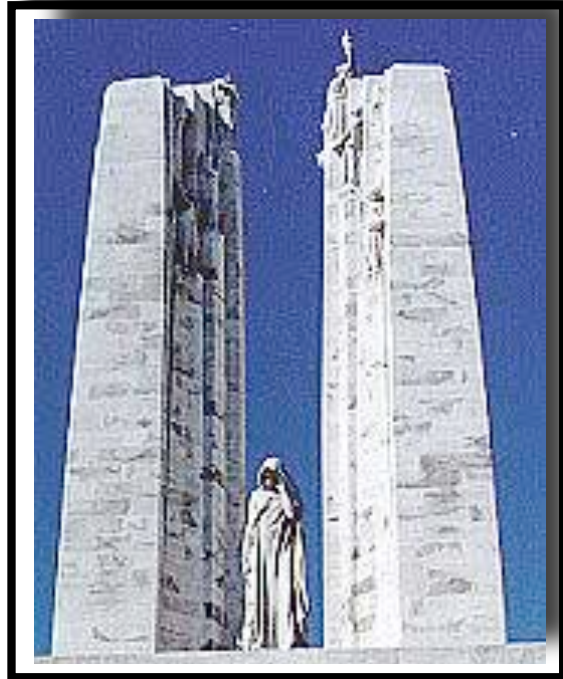
# WORLD WAR I A FAMILY AFFAIR

by  
Tom Dykes © 2014

The Kaiser and Czar  
were cousins, you know.  
And England's King George  
was family, though,  
they all had ambitions  
to see their Empires expand.  
But conflict and war  
would soon be at hand.

Balkan troubles were emerging.  
European tensions grow.  
A Serbian assassin Princip  
kills an Arch Duke in Sarajevo.  
Now in Europe, Guns of August,  
herald a world now at war.  
U-boats, Zeppelin raids.  
Destruction like never before.

The war brought Canada turmoil  
in the French Canadian 'solitude.'  
For Sir Robert Borden's conscription,  
Quebec was in no mood.  
In the trenches, on the Western Front,  
in the mud and gore and rage,  
Canada's young army,  
at Vimy Ridge, did come of age.



Machine guns and poison gas.  
Science applied to bring men down.  
In the Air, new machines of destruction  
with pilots like Bishop and Brown.  
At sea the fearsome Dreadnoughts  
clash in great naval fleets.  
On land, at Ypres and Vimy,  
so many victories, and defeats.

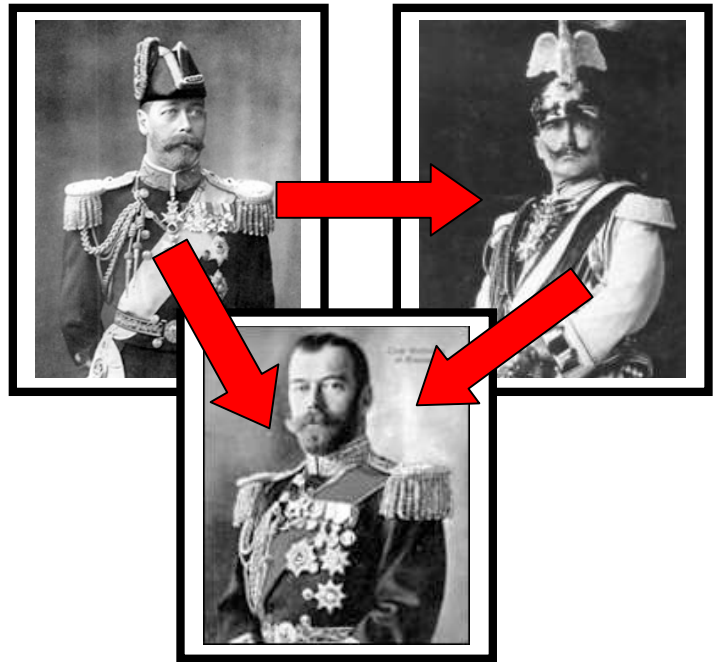
By the millions they fought  
and in millions they died.  
At the Somme, Passchendaele,  
to gain yards of mud, they tried.  
At the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, on the 11<sup>th</sup> day,  
of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, nineteen eighteen.  
The guns, they fell silent,  
the trenches, serene.

# A WORLD AT WAR

## Verse 1

The Kaiser and Czar  
Were cousins, you know.  
And England's King George  
was family, though,

they all had ambitions  
to see their Empires expand.  
But conflict and war  
would soon be at hand.



## Research Topics

### Choose One Research Topic

- **Research and present a Family Tree to show the relationship between King George V of England, Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany, and Tsar Nicholas II of Russia.**
- **Research and report on one common and conflicting ambition each of the cousins had, and how it had an impact upon the path to war.**
- **Research and report on the relative size, and economic and military strength of each of the Empires.**
- **Research and report on the comment that World War I was a “Family Squabble!”**

# A WORLD AT WAR

## Verse 2

**Balkan troubles were  
emerging.  
European tensions grow.  
A Serbian assassin Princip  
Kills an Arch Duke in  
Sarajevo**



**Back in Europe, Guns of  
August,  
herald a world now at war.  
U-boats, Zeppelin raids.  
Destruction like never  
before.**



### Research Topics

**Choose One Topic.**

- **Research and report on the ‘Balkan Troubles’ experienced by Austria-Hungary? What ethnic group had a grievance?**
- **Research and report on Gavrilo Princip and the Black Hand organization.**
- **Research and report on the impact and ‘domino effect’ of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.**
- **Research and report on two new instruments of war: the U-boat and the Zeppelin.**

# A WORLD AT WAR

## Verse 3

**The war brought Canada  
turmoil  
In the French Canadian  
'solitude.'  
For Sir Robert Borden's  
conscription,  
Quebec was in no mood.**



**In the trenches, on the  
Western Front,  
in the mud and gore and  
rage,  
Canada's young army,  
at Vimy Ridge, did come of  
age.**



## Research Topics

### Choose One Topic

- **Research and report on the 1917 Conscription Crisis faced by the Borden Government. What were the causes and was it only a Quebec issue?**
- **Research and explain the term Trench Warfare. Give reference to the "mud and gore and rage."**
- **Research and report on the significance of the battle of Vimy Ridge from a Canadian 'coming of age' perspective.**



# A WORLD AT WAR

## Verse 4

**Machine guns and poison  
gas.  
Science applied to bring men  
down.  
In the Air, new machines of  
destruction  
with pilots like Bishop and  
Brown.**



**At sea the fearsome  
Dreadnoughts  
clash in great naval fleets.  
On land, at Ypres and Vimy,  
so many victories, and  
defeats.**



## Research Topics

### Choose One Topic

- **Research and report on one form of armament that you consider to have played a significant role in WWI.**
- **Research and report on the evolution of aircraft as a product of conflict.**
- **Research and report on one sea battle involving Dreadnaughts.**
- **Research and report on the role that Canadian soldiers played in one battle other than Vimy.**

# A WORLD AT WAR

## Verse 5

**By the millions they fought  
and in millions they died.  
At the Somme,  
Passchendaele,  
to gain yards of mud, they  
tried.**

**At the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, on the 11<sup>th</sup>  
day,  
of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, nineteen  
eighteen.  
The guns, they fell silent,  
the trenches, serene.**



## Research Topics

### Choose One Topic

- **Prepare a graph to illustrate the casualty (killed, injured and missing) figures for all of the protagonists. Express as percentages of the total enlisted forces.**
- **Research and report on the reaction in Canada to the Armistice.**
- **Research and report on the reception Canadian soldiers received upon returning home.**
- **Research and report on one major change in Canadian Society that returning soldiers would experience.**





# **AN ABC OF WORLD WAR I**

**An Educational Resource  
by Tom Dykes (C) 2008**

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