

Rowlands Gill: The Great War and the Great Peace

The Response War Memorial

Lesson Plan: The Response War Memorial

Teacher/s	Date
Subject History	Year
Learning Objectives Develop the use of historical terms related to war memorials Understand the methods of historical enquiry, including sculptures like this war memorial.	Success Criteria The children know where the 'Response 1914' war memorial is in Newcastle and can interpret the purpose and meaning of the sculpture
Key Questions How can war memorials help with researching the impact of the First World War? What kind of information is represented here? What does it tell us about the thoughts and feelings of people at the time?	
Starter Activity/Introduction Although it is not essential to visit the war memorial, it is a much more powerful experience if the pupils have the opportunity to do so.	Resources Photographs of the war memorial
Main Activity Provide a brief introduction giving the reasons for erecting the memorial (see the websites listed). Ask the pupils what they understand by the title 'The Response 1914' and the Latin phrase 'Non Sib Sed Patriae': 'Not for Self but Country'. Arrange the pupils into groups of 5/6 and ask them to create a freeze frame tableau based on the photograph below. Ask the pupils to think about the character they are playing; what has just happened to them before the march; what they are thinking; what they hope will happen and what fears they might have for the future? The photograph showing the full sculpture can be enlarged and scenes cut out and annotated.	Resources Activity sheets. The memorial was paid for by Sir George Renwick, a prosperous shipbuilder. He had five sons who answered the call, all of whom returned.
Plenary Share thoughts and feelings about the war memorial. Is it triumphal, sad or thoughtful?	Resources www.victorianweb.org/sculpture/john/31.html www.warmemorials.org/search-grants/?qID=553



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**'The Response 1914' War Memorial
Newcastle upon Tyne**



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This memorial was paid for by the wealthy shipbuilder, Sir George Renwick and unveiled in 1923 by the Prince of Wales. Sir George had five sons who answered the call to go to war. All of them survived and in gratitude for this good fortune he paid for the memorial. It was also meant as a tribute to all the men who had left their families, many of them never to return.

Look carefully at the war memorial. Each figure has his or her own message. Now fill in the writing frame.

What is the meaning behind the name of the war memorial, 'The Response 1914'?	
Above the inscription 'Response' is the Latin phrase, "Non Sib Sed Patriae" which stands for 'Not for Self but country'. What does this mean?	
Why has the sculptor included workmen in the scene and not just soldiers? (Think about the title, 'The Response 1914').	
The sculptor has included family groups. Explain two of the scenes where you can see this. Why has he put family groups in a sculpture about going off to war?	
The memorial has an angel (Nike or Victory) flying over the soldiers. Why do you think the sculptor included this?	

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Look carefully at the figures in the memorial. Use both photographs in this activity to help you.

Activities

1. In groups of 4 or 5 become a living statue, adopting the pose of one of the people in the Response Memorial.

You have to decide:

- what has just happened to your person before the march
- what they are thinking
- what fears they might have for the future?

Freeze frame your tableau and ask the rest of the class if they know which characters you group are?

2 Cut out your figures from the photograph and stick them onto a plain piece of A4 paper.

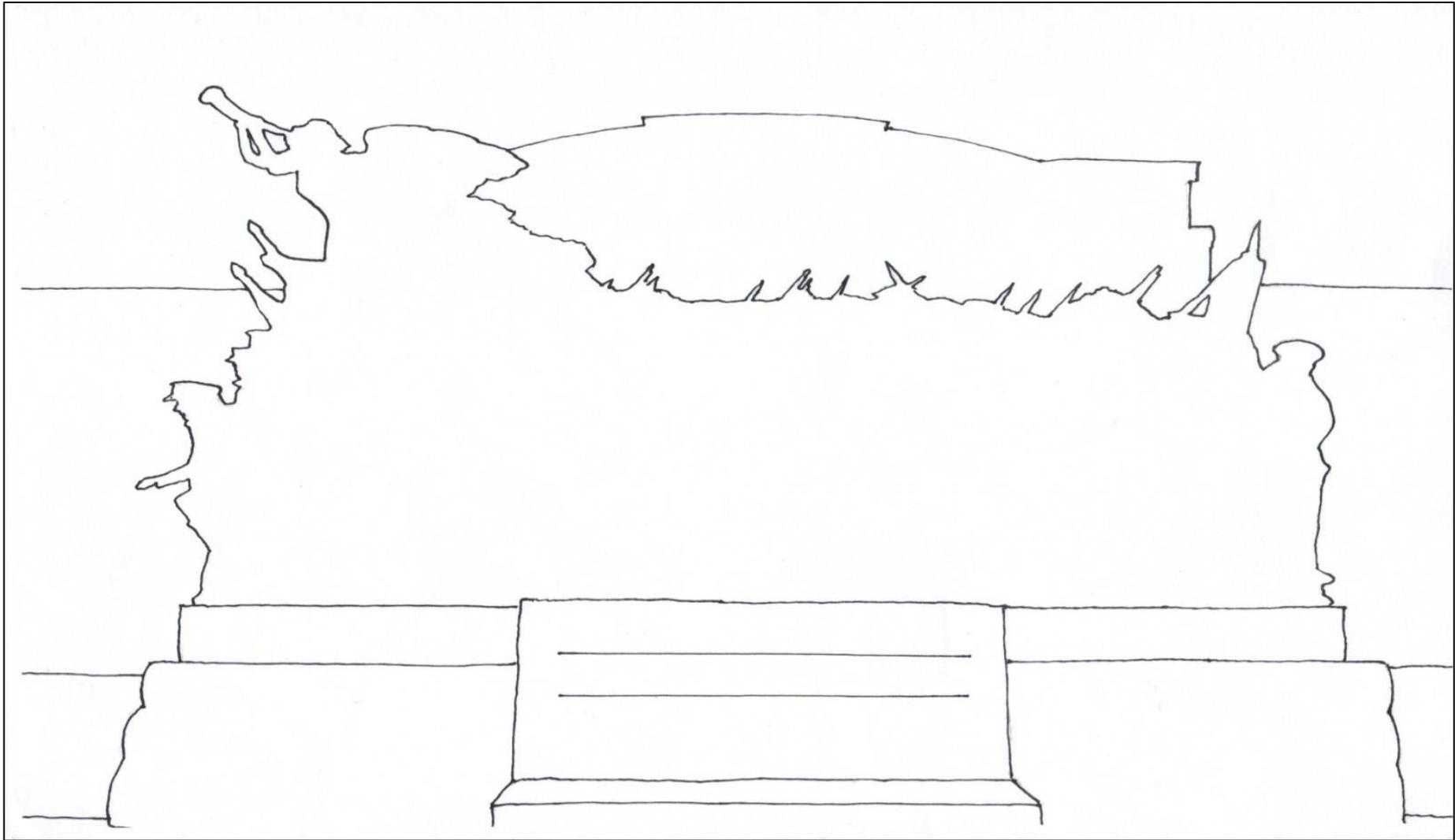
Draw speech bubbles for your characters. In each of the bubbles write down:

- The last words you spoke with a person in your made-up family
- The last conversation you had with your 'pals'
- The conversation you had with an officer

Would the drummer boys be allowed to go into battle? Why do you think they might have been included in the sculpture?



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Draw five figures from the memorial that inspire you onto the template above