

# FOR THE FALLEN

— Laurence Binyon - 1914 —

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,  
England mourns for her dead across the sea.  
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,  
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal  
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.  
There is music in the midst of desolation  
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,  
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;  
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;  
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;  
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,  
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,  
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known  
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,  
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,  
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,  
To the end, to the end, they remain.

Name:

Date:

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What type of poem is "For the Fallen"? .....

Which words mean "sad"? .....

What are the meanings of these words:.....

1. comrades .....

2. mourns .....

3. staunch .....

Why do you think the author wrote "For the Fallen"? .....

Who do you think this poem was written for? .....

How does this poem make you feel? .....

What do you think "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old" means? .....

Why do you think the author chose to write a poem and not a short story or an essay? .....