

## Activity 1: Rupert Brooke – The Soldier

Rupert Brooke was a poet who was commissioned into the Royal Naval Division in World War One. In February 1915, he set sail for the Dardanelles and developed septicaemia from a mosquito bite. He died in April on a hospital ship.

His poem, *The Soldier*, expressed the idealism of war before World War One. It explores the idea of identity and patriotism, and how, as a soldier, you carry around your nationality wherever you go.

Can you think of three personal objects that symbolise your identity – what you ‘carry around’ with you? This could be a childhood toy, or a family heirloom, or even your phone. Use the template below to jot down some ideas.



**Item 1**

**Item 2**

**Item 3**

Try using these thoughts and ideas to form a poem about your own identity. What do these objects say about you?

## Rupert Brooke - The Soldier

IF I should die, think only this of me:

That there's some corner of a foreign field  
That is forever England. There shall be  
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;  
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,  
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,  
A body of England's, breathing English air,  
Washed by the rivers, blest by the suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,  
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less  
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;  
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;  
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,  
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

**TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Send us the names of the items that make up your identity, or even your full poem if you've written it, and they could be featured on our Live Lesson on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June.

Simply ask your teacher to email them to [live.lessons@bbc.co.uk](mailto:live.lessons@bbc.co.uk) or use the hashtag **#bbclivelessons**.