

Symbolism of the Poppy

The red petals stand for the vast outpouring of blood; the green and black center, the mud and desolation of all battlefields.

The green of the stem is symbolic of the forests, meadows and fields where generations of Americans have perished to make this land free.

The stem represents the courage and determination of our fallen warriors.

The assembled product, a flower, is a symbol of resurrection which is sure to follow.



Only a Paper Poppy

Only some paper petals
With two leaves of paper, too.
Only a paper poppy
Does it mean anything more to you?

The red is for the courage
Of men who fought and bled,
And then came back to spend their days
In the ranks of the living dead.

The green of the leaves reminds me
Of the sunny hillsides over the sea,
Whenever rest the war torn bodies
Of those who died that war might cease to be.

The cup that is formed by the petals
Covers a heart of gold.
It stands for a labor of love
Whose value can never be told.

Only a paper poppy
But it holds the hopes and fears
Of numberless men and their loved ones
As they carry on through the years.