

STAPLE HERE

Cover Photo: An American flag flies at half-staff at a hotel in Seaside, California, July 2010.
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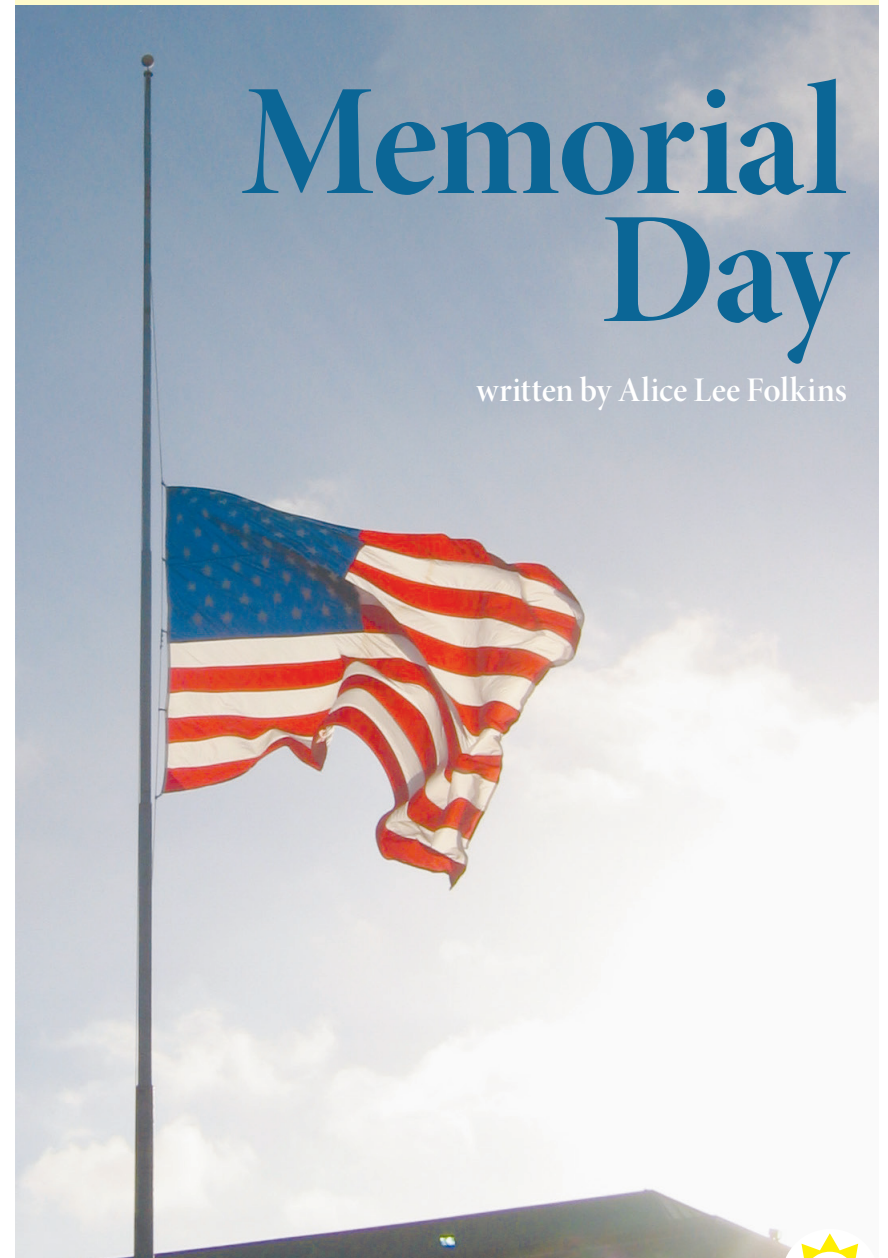
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Level E

Summer Holidays

Memorial Day

written by Alice Lee Folkins



SummerReads™ 

Memorial Day

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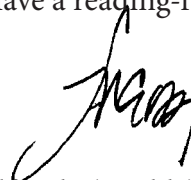
Dear Student,

I am a teacher who has studied how children learn to read well. What I have learned has been used to write SummerReads and programs like QuickReads® and Ready Readers.

The best way to be ready for the new school year is to read every day of the summer. You can choose to read a chapter or a book from SummerReads. But be sure to read it at least three times on the same day. Here's how to use SummerReads:

1. Start by reading it yourself. Mark the words that you don't know.
2. Next, ask someone to read with you. Get that person to help you with any words you don't know. You can even go to the computer to www.textproject.org and hear a recording of the books.
3. Last, you're going to read by yourself to answer the questions at the end of the book. You can go to the computer to find the answers.

Have a reading-filled summer!



Elfrieda (Freddy) Hiebert, Ph.D.

Inventor of the TExT model

Memorial Day

Photo: President Obama lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, Memorial Day 2009.
Public domain image by the U.S. Army.

Introduction

Many of the holidays we celebrate fall on a certain day. For example, Independence Day is always on July 4th. Some holidays, however, fall on a certain day of the week. Memorial Day is always the last Monday in May. Last year, in 2009, Memorial Day fell on May 25th. This year, we celebrated Memorial Day on May 31st.

On Memorial Day many stores and businesses are closed. Schools are also closed and many people have the day off from their jobs. Even though summer doesn't start until June, many people treat Memorial Day as the first day of summer. For many places in the United States, the weather is nice, almost like summer. With the day off from school or work, many people use Memorial Day to start enjoying summer. But the real reason to celebrate Memorial Day is to honor the men and women in our military.

Memorial Day

Flags and Red Poppies



Memorial Day was first known as Decoration Day. The holiday was started near the end of the American Civil War. People had started decorating the graves of soldiers who had died in battle with flags and flowers. One town set aside a day every year to decorate these graves and, a few years later, the

whole country was celebrating Decoration Day. At first, it was just a day to honor the Union soldiers who had died fighting in the Civil War. Now Memorial Day honors all United States soldiers who have died in the service of their country.

Other countries, such as England and Canada, have holidays like Memorial Day. England and Canada hold their holiday on November 11th to remember the end of World War I. Many soldiers fought and died in World War I. In one of the countries where World War I was fought, there were lots of red poppies growing in a field. A poem was written about the soldiers who died in that field of red poppies. Today, people in England and Canada pin red poppies to their shirts or coats to remember the soldiers who died fighting in a war.

In the United States, we celebrate Veterans Day on November 11th. Veterans Day is the day we honor the men and women who have served in the United States military. Memorial Day is the day we honor the soldiers who have died while serving in the United States military.

Memorial Day

Celebrating Memorial Day



Memorial Day is not just a day off from work or school for many people. To them Memorial Day is an important day to remember friends or family who have died while serving in the military. Many of the celebrations on Memorial Day include the military. For example, the Air Force may hold air shows where they fly special planes and jets for everyone to see. The Navy may also let people explore the inside of old battleships. Other military groups may hold drills to show how they do some of their tasks, like saving people from a burning ship.

Another way to celebrate Memorial Day is to fly the American flag at half-staff. Instead of flying the flag all the way to the top of the flagpole, the flag is raised only halfway. Take a look at the flags at police or fire stations. Many are raised at half-staff on Memorial Day. People also fly flags at half-staff on other days in the year to remember important people who have died.

At Washington, DC, people hold many events to celebrate Memorial Day. Arlington National Cemetery was a place where Union soldiers were buried in the Civil War. Since then, soldiers from other wars have also been buried in the Arlington National Cemetery. On Memorial Day, thousands of soldiers place a small flag on each grave. The president of the United States will also place flowers at the Tomb of the Unknowns at the Arlington National Cemetery. The Tomb of the Unknowns is a place to honor those who have died, even though we don't know the soldiers' names.

Memorial Day

The First Day of Summer



There are many outdoor things for people to do and see on Memorial Day. One exciting event is the Indianapolis 500 or the Indy 500. The first Indy 500 took place on Memorial Day 1911 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Every Memorial Day since then, drivers race special cars around a track 200 times. Why 200 times around the track? This is because drivers need to drive 200 laps to finish 500 miles on the track. For people not

driving in the Indy 500, they can cheer on their favorite driver from the stands.

You can also cheer on your favorite baseball team on Memorial Day. Many baseball teams will play games on Memorial Day. Throughout the game there may be special things to celebrate Memorial Day. For example, a soldier who has just returned home may throw the first pitch of the game. A group of military soldiers may also sing at the baseball game. As the soldiers sing, everyone will stand up, take off their hats and place their hats or hands over their hearts.

Most often, people spend Memorial Day with their friends and family. Since the weather is usually warm, many people have picnics or cookouts. A park is often a nice place to visit on Memorial Day. Many parks are free to visit, and some even allow pets. There are play areas, and large grassy fields to play sports and to relax. Memorial Day is usually the first day people get to do things that they enjoy doing in the summer. How will you spend the first day of summer?

Memorial Day**Rate your thinking and reading**

✓ Put a check each time you read one of the chapters of the book.

★ Give yourself a star for Sharing if you told someone about something you learned from reading the chapter.

✚ Give yourself a + if you can tell that your reading is getting smoother.

	1st Read	2nd Read	3rd Read	Sharing	Smoother
Introduction					
Flags and Red Poppies					
Celebrating Memorial Day					
The First Day of Summer					

Comprehension questions**Flags and Red Poppies**

1. True or false? Memorial Day was first known as Decoration Day.

☐ true ☐ false

2. Memorial Day is _____.

- ☐ the day we honor all United States soldiers who have died
- ☐ held on the first Monday of May
- ☐ the day Americans pin red poppies to their shirts and coats
- ☐ all of the above

Celebrating Memorial Day

3. True or false? On Memorial Day the Air Force may let people explore old battleships.

☐ true ☐ false

4. Which of the following are some ways to honor soldiers on Memorial Day?

- ☐ Placing flags on the graves at Arlington National Cemetery
- ☐ Placing flowers at the Tomb of the Unknowns
- ☐ Flying flags at half-staff
- ☐ All of the above

The First Day of Summer

5. True or false? The 500 in Indianapolis 500 comes from the number of laps drivers have to drive around the track.

☐ true ☐ false

6. Baseball games may celebrate Memorial Day by _____.

- ☐ having a soldier play with the baseball team
- ☐ having only soldiers watch the baseball game
- ☐ having a soldier throw out the first pitch
- ☐ having a soldier greet the fans