

**P. E. ACTIVITY FIVE: CREATIVE RESPONSE – DANCE**

**LINK TO MUSIC ACTIVITY 5, ENGLISH ACTIVITY 5 and ART ACTIVITY 3**

**Learning Objectives**

- Develop competence in a broad range of physical activities;
- Be physically active for sustained periods of time;
- Develop flexibility, strength, technique, control and balance;
- Perform dances using a range of movement patterns.

**Introduction**

This activity is about expressing responses to the First World War by creating a dance or movement piece setting the scene, telling the story and invoking an empathetic response to an overall atmosphere or specific events of the war.

**MAIN TASKS**

1. Choose music for the dance piece(s) – you can either use some of the music from [Historical Context 21. Creative Responses](#) or create your own using Music Activity 5 or use something of your choice.
2. As a whole or small group activity, decide on the theme of your piece. You might want to recreate a painting from the selection above, tell the story of your soldier and your Letter Home, or to express the Scene you have written and painted (English Activity 5 and Art Activity 3), through dance. Or you might want to go for a more abstract theme which expresses an aspect of the War – heroism, futility, horror, waiting.
3. Think about whether your piece has characters and is telling a story with a realistic narrative or whether the dancers are embodying themes, ideas, movements and emotions. You could be as abstract as trying to recreate the physicality of gunfire exploding or as specific as a soldier saying farewell to his loved ones. The music must reflect your theme and vice-versa.
4. When choreographing your piece think about the type of physical movements, which reflect what you're trying to express. If you are recreating a painting, think about the overall shapes as well as the details and the storyline. Think about how you can form shapes on your own as well as in pairs and groups.
5. Listen to the music carefully and think about how it is already shaping your piece of its own accord. Make sure that the piece you create reflects and listens to the music.
6. Rehearse and perform your piece(s).