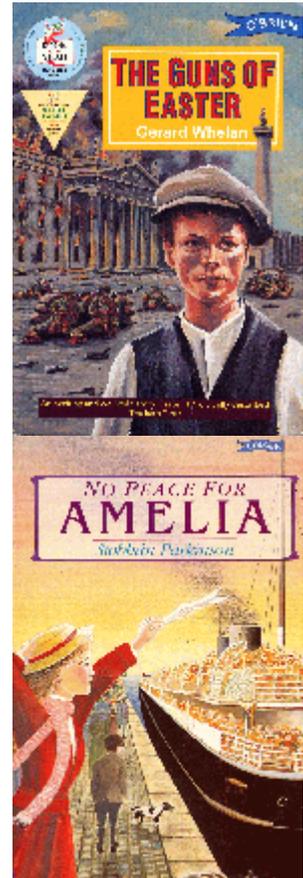


# Thinking skills

through history, literacy and citizenship

## Fighting for whom? 1916: the Easter Rising & the Western Front

### Student Workbook



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## Your key question

In this workbook you will be trying to find answers to one key question:

**Fighting for whom?**

**1916: the Easter Rising & the Western Front.**

This key question considers why in 1916:

- a. did some Irish men and women fight against the British army, appealing for German aid, during the Easter Rising in Ireland, while*
- b. other Irishmen joined the British army to fight against Germany.*

Lesson 1

# What warfare were Irish people involved in 1916?



1a. 'The Birth of the Republic' by Walter Paget, 1916 - an artist's impression of the scene inside the General Post Office, Dublin, at the height of the Easter Rising, just before the surrender.

Patrick Pearse stands (hatless and holding a revolver) on the left of the stretcher, where James Connolly lies wounded. The picture was commissioned in 1916 by supporters of the Rising and the artist has caught the 'romance' of the occasion in heroic style.

National Museum of Ireland

2a Some 206,000 men from Ireland served during the World War 30,000 died, most dramatically during the Battle of the Somme, which began in July 1916. One of the three Irish divisions, the Ulster Division suffered over 5,500 casualties in the first two days out of a total of 15,000 men.



1b. At most some 2,000 Irish men and women took part in the Easter Rising in Dublin in 1916 to set up an Irish Republic, completely independent from Britain. Among the dead were 64 insurgents, including the executed leaders, 132 members of the Crown forces and 230 civilians.

2b. The Battle of the Somme: a very famous painting, by James Prinsep Beadle, 'The Attack by the 36<sup>th</sup> (Ulster) Division in Somme, 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916', 1917.

Beadle, a military artist, painted scenes from the Great War, often from imagination and sometimes with the help from veterans - in this instance the young officer with his arm raised.

Belfast City Council



1. Freeze-frame one of the pictures.
2. Answer the following questions.
  - a. What are the main things you see in these pictures?
  - b. What are the main questions you want to ask?
  - c. What similarities and differences can you see between the scenes?

Lesson 2

For whom would you fight?



Choice A

Propaganda and some facts about the behaviour of the Germans when they invaded Belgium were used to influence the public attitude to the war. These recruiting posters play on the fears aroused.

REASONS WHY  
you should join  
**The Irish Citizen Army**

- BECAUSE It pledges its members to work for, organise for, drill for and fight for an Independent Ireland.
- BECAUSE It places its reliance upon the only class that never betrayed Ireland - the Irish Working Class.
- BECAUSE Having a definite aim to work for there is no fear of it being paralysed in the moment of action by divisions in its Executive Body.
- BECAUSE It teaches that 'the sole right of ownership of Ireland is vested in the people of Ireland, and that the full right of ownership may, and ought to be enforced by any and all means that God hath put within the power of man.
- BECAUSE It works in harmony with the Labour and true Nationalist Movements and thus embraces all that makes for Social Welfare and National Dignity.

Companies Wanted in Every District  
**RECRUITS WANTED EVERY HOUR**  
Apply for further information, Secretary, Citizen Army  
Liberty Hall, Dublin

Choice B



Recruiting poster for James Connolly's Irish Citizen Army, seen above on parade outside Liberty Hall, the head office of the Irish Transport Workers Union. Note the banner on the building.  
**WE SERVE NEITHER KING NOR KAISER  
ONLY IRELAND**

1. Select choice A or B and look at your posters carefully.
2. If you were in Ireland in 1916 and saw these posters, what questions would you want answered before you enlisted?
3. Use the background information - the context on the following two pages - and the information in the posters to show why you would support what your poster is saying.
4. As a class vote on whom you would fight for.

# Understanding what was happening in Ireland & France in 1916

Timeline	<p>The Third Home Rule Bill, 1912 This was intended to let the Irish government rule Ireland while still being part of the United Kingdom. Ireland had been part of The United Kingdom since 1801 and the Irish Parliamentary Party had been asking to rule themselves for many years. In 1912 they were given this but the Unionists, led by Sir Edward Carson, protested so much that the Bill was held up. Home rule was then postponed when World War I started.</p>			<p>The Easter Rising, 1916 A group of Nationalists led by Patrick Pearse wanted Ireland to be separated from the United Kingdom completely. They believed that they had to fight this and sacrifice themselves in the same way that men went to fight on the Western Front. They took over the Post Office in Dublin and declared that Ireland was a Republic on Easter Monday. After a week they surrendered in order to stop greater bloodshed.</p>			
1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
<p>Glossary Home Rule: <i>letting Ireland rule itself with its own parliament while staying part of the United Kingdom</i> Unionist: <i>a person who did not want Ireland to have its own parliament</i> Nationalist: <i>a person who wanted Ireland to rule itself as part of the United Kingdom or a person who wanted Ireland to be completely independent</i></p>			<p>World War I started in 1914 and Sir Edward Carson, the leader of the Unionists and John Redmond, leader of the Nationalists, agreed to stop quarrelling and encourage their supporters to go and fight for Britain.</p>		<p>Battle of the Somme, 1916 This was one of the worst battles in World War I. Irish men from both the south and north went to fight for Britain. On 1 and 2 July 1916, the first two days of the battle, 5,500 men from the Ulster Division were wounded or killed - many of them had joined to stop Ireland getting Home Rule after the war.</p>		

The main people we need to know about

<p><b>Sir Edward Carson</b> (1854-1935)</p> 	<p><b>John Redmond</b> (1856-1918)</p> 	<p><b>Patrick Pearse</b> (1879-1916)</p> 
<p>He led the Ulster Unionist party from 1910 until 1921. He wanted Ireland to stay a part of the United Kingdom. He did not want Ireland to have a parliament of its own.</p>	<p>He led the Irish Parliamentary Party from 1900 until 1918. He wanted Ireland to have Home Rule with its own parliament but to remain part of the United Kingdom.</p>	<p>He led the Irish rebels in 1916. He wanted Ireland to be totally separated from Britain and the British empire and was prepared to die for his beliefs.</p>

Fighting forces for and against the Easter Rising - see next page

## Fighting forces for and against the Easter Rising



### The Irish Volunteers

Our leader is Eoin MacNeill. We are not prepared to fight for the English in World War I. Our aim is a Free Ireland. MacNeill did not want us to fight the British but some of us felt we had to join in the Easter Rising.



### The Citizen Army

Our leaders are James Connolly and the Countess, Constance Markievicz. We are an army of trade unionists. We want Irish independence and joined with the Irish Volunteers to fight for it in the Easter Rising.



### The Ulster Volunteer Force

Our force is well organised and highly trained. We are determined to fight Home Rule and maintain the Union. Our Commander, General Sir George Richardson, is making sure we are a trained fighting force. We are loyal supporters of the King and the British Government.

## Finding out more

### Textbooks

*Divided Ireland* by V. Kelly *et al.*, Colourpoint Books, 1996, ISBN 1-89839-218-8, pp 41-61

*Ireland 1905-25. Vol. 1. Text & Historiography* by R. Rees, Colourpoint Books, 1998, ISBN 1-89839-pp 219-6, 209-12

*Union to Partition. Ireland 1800-1921* by R. Rees *et al.*, ISBN 1-89839-207-2, pp 60-71

*Time Traveller 3* by R. Day *et al.*, C.J. Fallon, ISBN 0-71441-130-2, pp 111-27

*Union to Partition. Ireland 1800-1921* by R. Rees *et al.*, Colourpoint Books, 1995, ISBN 1-89839-207-2, pp 60-73

### Other works

*Ireland. A History* by R. Kee, Abacus, 1995, ISBN 0-34910-678-9, pp 137-73

'Ireland and the First World War' by George Boyce, *History Ireland*, Vol. 2 No. 3, Autumn 1994, pp 48-53

*The Oxford Companion to Irish History* edited by S.J. Connolly, OUP, 1998, ISBN 1-19866-240-8, pp 20-2

*The Oxford Illustrated History of Ireland* edited by R. Foster, OUP, 1989, ISBN 0-19285-245-0, pp 234-44

### Websites

There are so many websites dealing with the Easter Rising and the Battle of the Somme, but the following provide starting points.

[www.bbc.co.uk/history/war/easterrising/index.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/war/easterrising/index.shtml) (*the best site for the Rising*)

[www.indigo.ie/~1916](http://www.indigo.ie/~1916) (*1916 walking tour of Dublin*)

[www.stephen-stratford.co.uk/easter.htm](http://www.stephen-stratford.co.uk/easter.htm)

[www.users.bigpond.com.kirwilli](http://www.users.bigpond.com.kirwilli)

<http://www.1914-1918.net/10div.htm> (*10<sup>th</sup> Irish Division*)

<http://freespace.virgin.net/sh.k/xvidiv.html> (*16<sup>th</sup> Irish Division*)

<http://users.tibus.com/the-great-war> (*36<sup>th</sup> Ulster Division*)

Lessons 3-8

## Fighting for whom? - using historical novels to explore motives & experiences

You are now going to examine how events in 1916 were seen through the eyes of two young people in historical fiction.

You will then compare these fictional accounts with other historical sources

### *The Guns of Easter*

The main character in *The Guns of Easter* is Jimmy Conway, aged 12.

His father, James Conway, aged 30 (Da), joins the British Army and is fighting in World War I.

His uncle, on his mother's side, Mick Healy is 21 and takes part in the Easter Rising.

### *No Peace for Amelia*

The main character in *No Peace for Amelia* is Amelia Pim, aged 15.

Her boyfriend, Frederick Goodbody, joins the British Army to fight in the World War I.

Her friend (and cook-general to the Pim household) is Mary Ann Maloney, aged 16.

Mary Ann's older brother, Patrick Maloney, seeks Mary Ann's help when he becomes involved in the Easter Rising.

The experiences of the main characters and how they view their friends and relatives can be found in the stories below and the sequences in the novel in the following pages.

## Jimmy Conway

1. Read the story of Jimmy's experience of 1916.
2. Underline any parts of the story you are not sure about.
3. Use the glossary at the back of the workbook to find out words you do not understand.
4. Choose the cards that answer the questions about Jimmy's views and decide whether they give good views, bad views or mixed ones, using the enlarged grid on the next page.

Good	Bad	Mixed
<i>What do I think about my dad in the war?</i>		
<i>What do I think of my uncle and his part in the Easter Rising?</i>		
<i>What do I think of the British army?</i>		
<i>What do I think of the Irish volunteers?</i>		

5. Who did Jimmy feel more sympathy for - the soldiers of the British Army or the Volunteers? Report to the whole class and give your reasons.
6. Has this sorting exercise helped you to understand the story and Jimmy's feelings?
7. This is taken from a historical novel. What other sources could you look at to check the historical accuracy of the story?
8. Suggest other times (for example, in the playground) when you have to check stories you have been told to see if they are true or not. What sort of things do you have to do to find out the truth?

4. Choose the cards that answer the questions about Jimmy's views and decide whether they give good views, bad views or mixed ones, using this grid.

Good	Bad	Mixed
<i>What do I think about my dad in the war?</i>		
<i>What do I think of my uncle and his part in the Easter Rising?</i>		
<i>What do I think of the British army?</i>		
<i>What do I think of the Irish volunteers?</i>		

## Jimmy's experience of 1916 - 1 (summary)

*It is 1916 and Jimmy Conway lives in the Dublin slums and is caught up in the Easter Rising. While his father is away in France, fighting with the British army, his uncle Mick joins the Rising, fighting against the British army in Dublin. Jimmy feels he must be the provider for his mother and two younger sisters. Setting out to find food or money, he finds himself adrift in a nightmare version of the world he has known, questioning old loyalties.*

I missed Da. Over a year had passed since he had gone to fight for the British army in France. His wages meant that we had more money but I wish that he was at home with us.

Some of the British soldiers were in Dublin and I thought that the soldiers who rode horses looked really grand and wanted to be like one of them. However, many of the soldiers in the British Army were old men and we called them Georgeous wrecks. I stopped my friend Tommy Doyle from joining other boys who were teasing the old soldiers. It was just as well that I did this as one of the old men was so upset that he had a heart attack and died. Mam was pleased with me because my grandfather - an Irishman - had once fought for the British in Africa.

I also admired my Uncle Jim who was helping to free Ireland against the British during Easter 1916 and the rest of my story is about what happened at this time. This rebellion was led by James Connolly of the Citizen Army and Padraic Pearse of the Irish Republican Brotherhood who were near the Post Office Building. I went to see what was happening and could see both of these leaders with their men.

The crowds were jeering them - saying that they were paid by the Germans. Suddenly, the men charged at the Post Office - everyone was shocked. I knew that the battle had started and felt excited about Mick supporting the volunteers in a rebellion against the English - this seemed much more exciting than being a soldier in the British Army. They are fighting for Ireland! However, it was very confusing. On the one hand, I supported those men who were fighting for Ireland. On the other, I could tell that many of the British Army soldiers were Irish - just like Da, fighting. This meant that Irishmen were shooting at each other in Dublin!

The Irish fighters took over the General Post Office and were able to stand up to the attack by the British Lancers who retreated in the face of the Irish guns. Many soldiers lay dead. I went over to get a soldier's gun and threw it to the men in the Post Office. A woman called me a rebel and I felt proud.

I wanted to find Uncle Jimmy and guessed that he would be at the Green. When I got there I saw one of Jimmy's friends at the Green talking to Countess Markievicz. She was one of the rebels and was carrying a gun and looked really glamorous. I saw Jimmy at the corner of the Green and went to talk to him - feeling very proud. He told me about how the fighting was going.

The battle seemed to be going well for Jimmy's side. I looked at a notice on Nelson's column: it said - THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC- TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND. Someone told me that the Volunteers had said that we now had a republic. However, some people took advantage of the situation, since they were poor and hungry. Lots of people looted shops during the fighting. I felt this was wrong but picked up some food to take to Mam. Two volunteers came to try and stop the people from looting - one of them was crying because of what he saw. Although I did not agree with what the people were doing I understood why they were doing it.

Later, I heard that the British troops invaded the Green and was worried about what had happened to Mick. However, I had an important job to do.

Mick knew we would have difficulty in getting food and gave his savings to Aunt Ellie to help us. I had to get to my aunt's house to get money or food from her for Mam. This took a long time because I had to keep out of the way of the fighting.

When I got to Burgh Quay a British Army soldier told me to get off the bridge and take cover. He questioned me about what I was doing. When I told him that people were looting - he said he understood why since they were so poor. He told a soldier to give me a cup of tea and take me to safety. The soldiers gave me a handful of coins and wished me well. This seemed very strange, these people did not seem like the enemy!

However, it was very dangerous to be in Dublin. Many ordinary people just came to look at what was happening - some got shot by accident. During my journey I saw some volunteers lying dead. My friend Billy Moran went to get a gun from one of them and, to my horror, I saw him shot by one of the soldiers, mistaking him for one of the volunteers.

At other times it was the British soldiers who were getting shot. The volunteers were fighting off the soldiers at Mount Street bridge and were able to kill many of them from houses on Northumberland Road and Clanwilliam House. I heard a woman saying, 'The poor, poor boys'. When the fighting stopped civilians including a priest went to help the wounded soldiers. Later, I saw that the houses held by the volunteers had been destroyed by the end of the fighting.

I finally reached Aunt Ellie's house and found that she had bought food for us - which I had to get back to Mam. On my journey home I saw the British soldiers I had met earlier. I realised they were soldiers like Da. One called Martin came from Ulster said - I think some of us are wondering what we are doing here shooting at Irishmen and burning down Dublin. When we parted we both whispered - Up the rebels!

Jimmy's experience of 1916 - 2 (cards for sorting)

J1.	I missed Da - went to fight for the British army in France over a year ago. <i>p. 11</i>
J2.	We had more money when Da went to fight - even though I wish that he was at home with us. <i>pp 12-13</i>
J3.	I thought the soldiers on their horses looked really grand and wanted to be like one of them. <i>p. 23</i>
J4.	I stopped my friend Tommy Doyle from joining on with other boys who were teasing the old soldiers we called the Gorgeous Wrecks who had once fought for Britain. It was just as well that I did this as one of the old men was so upset that he had a heart attack and died. Mam was pleased with me because my grandfather, an Irishman, had once fought for the British in Africa. <i>pp 24-5</i>
J5.	As I walked near to the Post Office at Easter, I saw Connolly of the Citizen's Army and Pearse with their men. The crowds were jeering them- saying that they were paid by the Germans. The men charged at the Post Office - everyone was shocked. <i>pp 56-7</i>
J6.	I felt excited about Mick taking part in a rebellion against the English - this seemed much more exciting than being a soldier in the British Army. They are fighting for Ireland! <i>p. 60</i>
J7.	It seemed odd - who were the volunteers fighting? The British Army? But Da was in the British Army and many of the soldiers had Irish accents. This meant that Irishmen were shooting at each other in Dublin! <i>p. 61</i>
J8.	I saw the British Lancers retreat in the face of the Irish guns as the GPO. Many soldiers lay dead. I went over to get a soldier's gun and threw it to the men in the Post Office. A woman called me a rebel. <i>pp 69-70</i>
J9.	I saw one of Jimmy's friends at the Green talking to Countess Markievicz - she was one of the rebels and was carrying a gun- she looked really glamorous. I saw Jimmy at the corner of the Green. <i>pp 70-1</i>
J10.	I looked at a notice on Nelson's column - it said - THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC- TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND. Someone told me that the Volunteers had said that we now have a republic whatever that meant. <i>p. 76</i>
J11.	Lots of people looted shops during the fighting. I felt this was wrong but picked up some food to take to Mam. <i>pp 79-82, 86-7</i>
J12.	Two volunteers came to try and stop the people from looting - one of them was crying because of what he saw. Although I did not agree with what the people were doing I understood why they were doing it. <i>p. 83</i>
J13.	I heard that the British troops invaded the Green and was worried about what had happened to Mick. <i>p. 93</i>
J14.	Mick knew we would have difficulty in getting food and gave his savings to Aunt Ellie to help us. I had to get to my aunt's house to get money or food from her for Mam. This took a long time because I had to keep out of the way of the fighting. <i>pp 90, 95-6</i>

J15.	When I got to Burgh Quay a British Army soldier told me to get off the bridge he and take cover. He questioned me about what I was doing. When I told him that people were looting, he said he understood why since they were so poor. He told a soldier to give me a cup of tea and take me to safety. The soldiers gave me a handful of coins and wished me well - this seemed very strange, these people did not seem like the enemy! <i>pp 98-101</i>
J16.	Some volunteers lay dead and my friend Billy Moran went to get a gun from one of them - to my horror I saw him shot by one of the soldiers, mistaking him for one of the volunteers. <i>pp 108-9</i>
J17.	Many ordinary people just came to look at what was happening - some got shot by accident. <i>pp 108, 119, 123</i>
J18.	The volunteers were fighting off the soldiers at Mount Street Bridge and were able to kill many of them from houses on Northumberland Road and Clanwilliam House. I heard a woman saying - The poor, poor boys. When the fighting stopped civilians including a priest went to help the wounded soldiers. <i>pp 126-9</i>
J19.	I later saw that the houses held by the volunteers had been destroyed by the end of the fighting. <i>p. 143</i>
J20.	I saw soldiers on my return and realised they were just soldiers like Da. One called Martin, who came from Ulster said - I think some of us are wondering what we are doing here shooting at Irishmen and burning down Dublin. When we parted we both whispered - up the rebels! <i>pp 156-61</i>

## Amelia Pim

1. Read the story of Amelia's experience of 1916.
2. Underline any parts of the story you are not sure about.
3. Use the glossary at the back of the workbook to find out words you do not understand.
4. Choose the cards that answer the questions about Amelia's views and decide whether they give good views, bad views or mixed ones, using the enlarged grid on the next page.

Good	Bad	Mixed
<i>What do I think about Frederick's taking part in the war?</i>		
<i>What do I think of Mary Ann's support for the Volunteers and the Easter Rising?</i>		
<i>What do I think of the war?</i>		
<i>What do I think of the Easter Rising?</i>		

5. How far was Amelia a pacifist?  
Report to the whole class and give your reasons.
6. Has this sorting exercise helped you to understand the story and Amelia's feelings?
7. This is taken from a historical novel. What other sources could you look at to check the historical accuracy of the story?
8. Suggest other times (for example, in the playground) when you have to check stories you have been told to see if they are true or not. What sort of things do you have to do to find out the truth?

4. Choose the cards that answer the questions about Amelia's views and decide whether they give good views, bad views or mixed ones, using this grid.

Good	Bad	Mixed
<i>What do I think about Frederick's taking part in the war?</i>		
<i>What do I think of Mary Ann's support for the Volunteers and the Easter Rising?</i>		
<i>What do I think of the war?</i>		
<i>What do I think of the Easter Rising?</i>		

## Amelia's experience of 1916 - 1 (summary)

*It is 1916 and Amelia Pim lives in a Quaker family in a well-off district of Dublin. One of her best friends is Mary-Ann Maloney, who works as cook-general. Amelia has a boyfriend called Frederick Goodbody, who volunteers to fight in World War I. Mary-Ann's elder brother, Patrick, is a member of the Irish Volunteers, an army who fight during the Easter Rising for independence from Britain.*

Mary Ann's brother, Patrick, joined the Volunteers because he came from a poor family, who probably had republican leanings. He wanted to rebel against British rule in Ireland because they had kept the Irish people poor. He asked Mary-Ann to hide weapons in the Pim's house. The soldiers would not think of raiding a Quaker house. Mary-Ann was tempted. She could be a Gaelic heroine. However, her friendship with the Pims and the trust they placed in her proved more important.

Meanwhile, Amelia was shocked to find out that Frederick, the boy she was walking out with, had volunteered to fight over in Flanders. She had thought something was wrong when they were out with their friends and he had an outburst about the war. But it was not until she heard her parents talking about it at dinner that she found out. She was puzzled because Frederick came from a Quaker family like herself. Quakers opposed all violence.

However, she was also very excited at the thought of her Frederick as an officer in the army. How brave he was! How she wished she could fight too! She could not understand why Mary-Ann was so disapproving.

Frederick visited Amelia to say goodbye and Amelia and Mary-Ann walked to the docks early in the morning to wave goodbye to Frederick's ship. On their way back home, they saw Countess Markievicz and the Citizen Army marching through the town.

Later on, the Pim's house was raided for weapons. All the soldiers found was a toy gun belonging to Amelia's brother, Edmund, but they upset Edmund and caused havoc in the house. Mary Ann tried to give in her notice because she was ashamed of the trouble she had brought to the Pims. However, the Pims persuaded her to stay.

Amelia received a miserable sounding letter from Frederick and she wrote back to him enclosing a pressed flower that he had noticed on their windowsill. Patrick wrote to Mary Ann warning her that a Rising was going to take place on Easter Sunday. Mary Ann was very relieved when it didn't take place.

The Pim family and Mary Ann went for a picnic on Easter Monday. They had a really good day out but realised, as soon as they arrived back, that an uprising was taking place. The GPO had been taken over by the Irish Volunteers. Amelia was troubled and confused by it and Mary Ann was worried about Patrick.

One afternoon, Patrick arrived, wounded, in the Pim's back garden. He explained to Mary Ann that he had a message about surrender to take to Ashbourne but Mary Ann would not let him travel. Amelia gave him medical treatment and they managed to get him out of the house in secret.

Amelia was in school when she heard that Frederick had been killed. She fainted and grieved in silence for days. The Rising was over and many of the leaders were being executed. A soldier who was with Frederick when he died visited Amelia to tell her how important she was to him. Amelia cried and started to speak again. The girls were very worried about Patrick but when they returned from visiting the Goodbody family, Patrick was there on the doorstep. They gave him a great welcome and he gave Amelia a shawl, the same colours as the iris she had pressed and sent to Frederick.

Amelia's experience of 1916 - 2 (cards for sorting)

A1	I was in two minds about the war recruitment poster. I didn't like the question Do you have any womenfolk worth defending? It made me feel uneasy. It suggested that women were weak and defenceless and somehow responsible for the war. I was also thrilled by the idea of armies of soldiers marching off to war to protect their women. <i>p. 27</i>
A2	War is always wrong. <i>p. 27</i>
A3	Frederick got angry when everyone was joking about the war. I was surprised how strong he reacted. It was as if it really meant something to him personally. <i>p. 27</i>
A4	I was very confused when Lucinda told me that Frederick had enlisted. He was a Quaker – a Pacifist. Pacifists didn't go to war. I didn't understand. <i>p. 42</i>
A5	What would I have done if Frederick had told me he had joined up when we were on the train. Would I have tried to persuade him to change his mind? I'm not sure. <i>p. 43</i>
A6	Lucinda explained that Frederick hadn't been getting on with his father lately and hated working in his office. The war may have seemed a way out for him. <i>pp 43-4</i>
A7	On hearing the news of Frederick's enlistment, I know I should have been worried. However, I felt elated. Frederick had made a conscious decision to do something with his life....to be someone. I was overcome by the magnificence of it all. <i>pp 44-5</i>
A8	If only girls could do such fine things as fight for justice and truth, the protection of the Empire and the protection of the innocent ... like poor little Belgium. <i>pp 44-5</i>
A9	When Mary Ann asked me what the war was about, I found it very difficult to explain. I knew it was about putting the Kaiser in his place and that everyone should be in charge of their own country. I wasn't so sure when Mary Ann twisted my words and said that, as I thought the Irish should be in charge of Ireland, I was a nationalist. <i>p. 48</i>
A10	I couldn't see why Mary Ann couldn't understand why Frederick should feel strongly about fighting in the war. After all, she had been very pleased when the war had started. She explained that that was because "England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity". I didn't know what she meant but it didn't sound very nice. <i>pp 48-9</i>
A11	I was very worried about Frederick. I kept thinking he might never come back. On the other hand, it was quite wonderful that he'd left his comfortable home against his family's wishes and was now marching off bravely to defend his country. <i>pp 58-9</i>
A12	I was amazed to see Countess Markievicz leading an armed gang, who Mary said were called the Citizen Army. The countess used to be a friend of Mama's when she was protesting for women's suffrage. Why are they rebelling when they are going to be given Home Rule after the war? <i>p. 70</i>
A13	Mary Ann said that the Citizen Army were marching around with guns because there was going to be a rebellion. She got very angry when she talked about Home Rule. I feel very uncomfortable with all this violence. <i>p. 70</i>

A14	Frederick sounded really fed up in his letter. His boots had blistered his feet and he tied them round his neck? Why didn't he just throw them away? <span style="float: right;"><i>p. 104</i></span>
A15	When I heard that armed men had taken over the General Post Office, I didn't know whether I wanted the army to move in or not. I didn't understand how the changes were going to affect me. <span style="float: right;"><i>p. 142</i></span>
A16	When I found out that Patrick Maloney had taken shelter in our shed, I explained to Mary Ann that my parents wouldn't worry about getting into trouble with the Law. It wasn't the same as hiding guns in the house. Patrick was a human being who was in need of help. <span style="float: right;"><i>p. 168</i></span>
A17	At least Frederick is fighting in a proper, honourable war, not just a skirmish in a post office. <span style="float: right;"><i>p. 170</i></span>
A18	The Great War is to defend Britain against the Germans. It's to safeguard the women and children of Belgium and France. It's an honourable war. <span style="float: right;"><i>p. 170</i></span>
A19	Whatever war they are all honourable men. It is war itself that is dishonourable. <span style="float: right;"><i>p. 172</i></span>
A20	To be a Pacifist, it's not enough to be anti-war at heart. You have to work for peace not just have a distaste for war. <span style="float: right;"><i>p. 176</i></span>

Lesson 9

## Why did people join up?

In the novels, two characters, James Conway, Jimmy's Da in *The Guns of Easter*, and Frederick Goodbody, Amelia's boyfriend in *No Peace for Amelia*, join the British Army and fight in World War I. Two other characters become involved in the Easter Rising: Mick Healy, Jimmy's uncle in *The Guns of Easter* and Patrick Maloney, the brother of Amelia's friend, Mary Ann Maloney.

Examine the written and visual sources on the next two pages, then do the following.

1. Sort the evidence into two piles, one showing why people joined the British Army, the other showing why people joined the Irish Volunteers.
2. Sort the cards in each pile into categories which show different reasons why they joined up. Write the reasons in the appropriate boxes.

Reasons for joining the Irish Volunteers		Reasons for joining the British Army	
Reason	Source	Reason	Source

3. 'People joined the British Army and the Irish Volunteers for the same reasons.' Discuss.
4. Draw a mind map, summarising all the reasons for joining up.

## Written sources

1	<p>Hundreds of working-class Dubliners, signing up largely for economic reasons, were among the 45,000 men who joined the various battalions of the Dublin Fusiliers over the four years of the conflict.</p> <p><i>The historian, Keith Jeffery, writing in 2000</i></p>
2	<p>To force conscription on Ireland is wrong. The Irish have a right to resist it as long as they stay within the law.... All Ireland will rise against you.</p> <p><i>John Dillon, Home Rule MP, 1918</i></p>
3	<p>Fighting at the front today, there are thousands whose soul revolts against what they are doing, but who must nevertheless continue fighting and murdering because they were deprived of a living at home, and compelled to enlist [so] that those dear to them might not starve.</p> <p><i>James Connolly, trade union leader and one of the leaders of the Easter Rising, 1915</i></p>
4	<p>We must accustom ourselves to the thought of arms, to the sight of arms, to the use of arms ... there are many things more horrible than bloodshed, and slavery is one of them.</p> <p><i>Patrick Pearse, one of the leaders of the Easter Rising, 1912</i></p>
5	<p>We serve neither King nor Kaiser. Working people should be fighting the wealthy employers rather than each other.</p> <p><i>James Connolly, trade union leader and one of the leaders of the Easter Rising, 1915</i></p>
6	<p>I hated it! I hated it! It was an awful place, to work in a mill in those days. I enlisted because it was an escape route out of the Mill, for surely life holds more than the Mill can offer ... I remember marching down the Shankill Road in a body to the old Town Hall and joining up there. The great thing about the 36th Division was that they were all comrades, they were all from one place. We didn't know everybody, but we knew they were Ulster people and we had the people we went to school with in our lot. We were a very young lot.</p> <p><i>John Christie, linen worker in Belfast, aged 16 when the war started</i></p>
7	<p>Ireland is not at war with Germany. England is at war with Germany. We are Irish nationalists and the only duty we can have is to stand for Ireland's interest.</p> <p><i>Arthur Griffith, Sinn Fein leader, 1914</i></p>
8	<p>War brings to any society its electric, exhilarating atmosphere, and young men rush to join in it, however grim the stories of war they have read and accepted as the truth.</p> <p><i>Samuel Hynes, a literary historian, in The Soldiers' Tale, 1998</i></p>
9	<p>[Among the rebels holding St Stephen's Green] were some who were only infants - one boy seemed about twelve years of age. He was strutting [in] the centre of the road with a large revolver in his small fist.</p> <p><i>James Stephens, an eye witness, Dublin, 1916</i></p>
10	<p>I heard a Catholic priest preaching about how little Catholic Belgium had been attacked by Germany and was suffering. I joined the British Army after that.</p> <p><i>John O'Reilly, a bank clerk in Co. Cavan, aged 18 when the war started</i></p>
11	<p>Radical republicanism gained support in 1915-16 when unemployment in the city remained high. Unlike Belfast, much of Dublin's industry was non-essential in character - distilling, brewing, biscuit manufacturing and building. Slackening of economic activity and unemployment increased the potential for social and political unrest.</p> <p><i>The historian, Keith Jeffery, writing in 2000</i></p>
12	<p>The interests of Ireland are at stake in this war. I say to you - go and fight in defence of freedom and of religion in war.</p> <p><i>John Redmond MP, leader of the Home Rule party, 1914</i></p>

Visual sources



13. Recruitment poster urging Irishmen to join the Army.



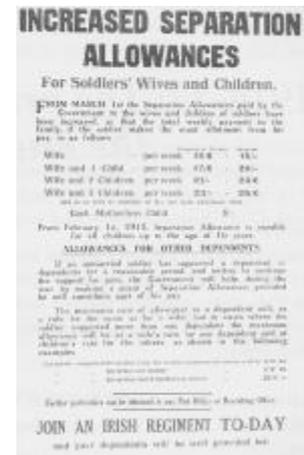
14. James Connolly's Irish Citizen Army on parade outside Liberty Hall, the head office of the Irish Transport Workers' Union.



15. Recruiting poster for the Irish Citizen Army.



16. Army recruitment poster.



17. Army recruitment poster.



18. Army recruitment poster.



19. Patrick Pearse, outside the GPO in Dublin, sticking up the Proclamation of the Irish Republic.

Lesson 10

## Linking history and fiction

1. In pairs, read Jimmy's story again and highlight anything that tells you why Da, Jimmy's father, joined the British Army.
2. Now look at the grid you filled in during the last lesson and look again at the sources used in the last lesson.
3. Find out which sources explain why Da joined up.
4. Write down in the box below the key reasons he joined up.
5. Repeat the exercise for Uncle Mick, Patrick and Frederick.
6. Pretend to be one of the characters. Use the information in the appropriate box to explain to your partner why you joined up.

<i>Da</i>		<i>Uncle Mick</i>	
<i>Frederick</i>		<i>Patrick</i>	

7. *If time allows, team up with another pair students and introduce your partner.*
8. How far do you think that the historical sources back up the stories you have read?

## Lesson 11

### Review

1. Look again at the first two pictures in the workbook and your answers in the first exercises. How many of your questions can you answer now that you have completed the workbook? Are there any new questions you would like to ask or any questions that have not been answered?
2. Fighting for whom? Why did Irish people in 1916 fight for different causes?
3. Which activity worked best for you? Explain why.
4. What have you learned about the issues involved in using different sources, such as written sources, visual sources and historical fiction.
5. Could you use the skills and ideas learned or developed in other school subjects or outside school?

## Lesson 12

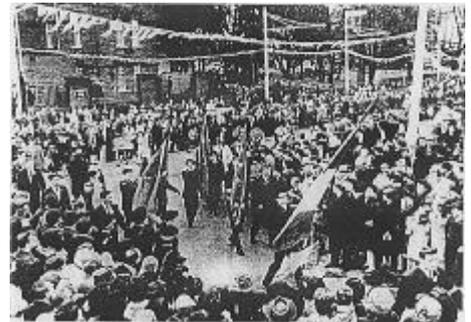
# Remembering 1916



Irish National War Memorial, Islandbridge, Dublin, 1938

'If Derry and the Boyne had proved the willingness of the Ulstermen to fight for their faith, then the Somme was a symbol of their willingness to fight (and die) for King and Country.'

'A divided Ireland is symbolically reunited each Easter as people parade simultaneously across the country to remember 1916.'



Remembering the Easter Rising, Belfast in the 1970s. The Rising is commemorated each Easter with parades in various parts of Ireland, the biggest being in Belfast.



Memorial to the executed leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising, Arbour Hill Cemetery, Dublin, 1966



The Ulster Tower, memorial to the 36th (Ulster) Division at Thiepval on the Somme, 1921



Remembering the Somme, Garvaghy Road, Drumcree, 1997. 'Somme Memorial' Orange lodges were soon formed - the first in 1919 - and 1 July came to be marked by Orange processions.



Republican mural, Whiterock Road, Belfast, 1991  
'Eiri amach na casca 1916-1991' (Easter Rising)  
75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Easter Rising, with portraits of signatories of the Proclamation of Independence, and phoenix rising from the flames and sunburst



Loyalist mural, Albertbridge Road, Belfast, 1988  
'But Never Heart Forget', commemorating the Ulster Division which suffered severe casualties at the Battle of the Somme, 1916

1. Suggest how the descendants of either Jimmy or Amelia might regard these monuments.
2. Consider the following statements
  - a. 'All these monuments, marches and murals are public ways in which the important events you studied should be remembered.'
  - b. 'Some of these monuments, marches and murals are public ways in which the important events you studied should be remembered.'
  - c. 'None of these monuments, marches and murals are public ways in which the important events you studied should be remembered.'
3. Work in small groups and see if you can reach a consensus. Be ready to justify your conclusions.

## Glossary

Citizen Army	An army of trade unionists, the Irish Citizen Army, led by James Connolly and Countess Constance Markievicz. They fought for Irish independence with the Irish Volunteers in the Easter Rising.
Connolly, James	He was a trade union leader who set up the Irish Citizen Army. He wanted the revolution to make life better for working people. The Irish Republican Brotherhood invited him to join their Rising in 1916.
Conscription	When by law all able-bodied male citizens are required to serve in the armed forces.
Elated	Overjoyed.
Georgous Wrecks	This was a play on the Latin words <i>Georgius Rex</i> which was written on the old soldiers' belts to show that they were working for King George V, the British king.
Home Rule	Ireland would remain in the United Kingdom but have its own government and parliament in Dublin. They would be able to pass their own laws about things that had to do with everyday life in Ireland. The government in London would still pass laws that had to do with Ireland in relation to the outside world.
Kaiser	The title for the emperor of Germany before and during World War I.
Markievicz, Countess Constance	The daughter of a wealthy Irish landowner who helped lead some of the volunteers.
Nationalist	Irish people who did not want to be ruled by Britain. The moderate nationalists, Home Rulers, wanted Home Rule. This was not enough for more advanced nationalists, Republicans, who took part in the Easter Rising. They wanted complete independence from Britain.
Pacifist	A person who believes that any violence, even in self-defence, is wrong.
Pearse, Padraic	He led the Rising having joined the Irish Republican Brotherhood which wanted to make Ireland split from Great Britain.
Quaker	The Quaker movement was a religious movement started in the seventeenth century by George Fox (1625-1691). He wanted a simple church where everyone was treated equally, following the teaching of Peter, Jesus's apostle. Quakers are also pacifists. They have meetings instead of services. They are officially called The Society of Friends.
Recruitment poster	A poster persuading men to join the army as volunteers.
Republic	Setting up a government which was not ruled by the king or queen.
Skirmish	A small fight.
Suffrage	The vote.
Ulster	Some of the army soldiers came from Ulster, one of the four provinces of Ireland. Some soldiers in the British army were from Ireland!
Volunteers	The Irish Volunteers were led by Eoin Mac Neill and they refused to fight in World War I because they wanted to free Ireland. Although Mac Neill did not want to fight the British, the Irish Republican Brotherhood got many of the Volunteers to join it in the Rising.