

# VIMY 100 IN THE CLASSROOM



THE VIMY FOUNDATION  
LA FONDATION VIMY

With the support from

*Tim Hortons*

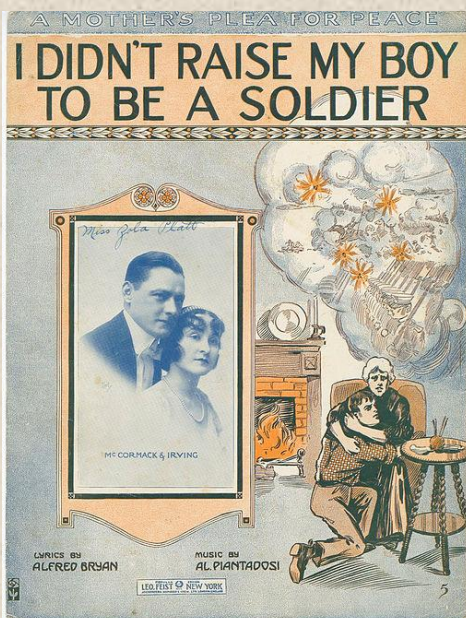
## CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS AND PACIFISTS

While there was widespread support for Canada's war effort during the First World War, not everyone was in favour of the country's participation. Many people were opposed to the conflict because of moral or religious beliefs. A **conscientious objector**, for example, was someone who refused to engage in military service for these reasons. When Canada imposed mandatory military enlistment—conscription—conscientious objectors refused to enlist and asked to be exempted from this requirement. [You can read more about conscientious objectors here.](#)

### PACIFISTS

There were others opposed to the war, as well. A **pacifist** was someone opposed to war of any kind. The best-known pacifist in Canada was Methodist minister J.S. Woodsworth of Manitoba. Please read the [article found here](#) and answer the following questions:

- What happened to J. S. Woodsworth as a result of his views about the war?
- List three groups that were active as peace activists.
- How did “radical pacifists” view the war?
- What challenges did pacifists face when they opposed the war?



*"I Didn't Raise My Boy To Be A Soldier", sheet music cover.*

*Date: 1915*

*Source: Indiana University library*

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## LYRIC ANALYSIS ACTIVITY

Below is an excerpt of lyrics from an American anti-war song that was also sold in Canada. Read the lyrics and discuss the meaning with a partner. Then, write a second verse that continues to capture the theme addressed by the song.

### *I Didn't Raise My Boy To Be A Soldier*

I didn't raise my boy to be a soldier,  
I brought him up to be my pride and joy,  
Who dares to put a musket on his shoulder,  
To shoot some other mother's darling boy?  
Let nations arbitrate their future troubles,  
It's time to lay the sword and gun away,  
There'd be no war today,  
If mothers all would say,  
I didn't raise my boy to be a soldier.

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

- Listen to a recording of this song by singer Morton Harvey on YouTube: [Link](#)