

The Flag Goes By

Hats off!

Along the street there comes

A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums,

A dash of color beneath the sky:

Hats off!

The flag is passing by!

Blue and crimson and white it shines,

Over the steel-tipped, ordered lines.

Hats off!

The colors before us fly;

But more than the flag is passing by.

Sea-fights and land-fights, grim and great,

Fought to make and to save the State:

Weary marches and sinking ships;

Cheers of victory on dying lips;

Days of plenty and years of peace;

March of a strong land's swift increase;

Equal justice, right and law,

Stately honor and reverend awe;

Sign of a nation, great and strong

To ward her people from foreign wrong:

Pride and glory and honor,--all

Live in the colors to stand or fall.

Hats off!

Along the street there comes

A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums;

And loyal hearts are beating high:

Hats off!

The flag is passing by!



Henry Holcomb Bennett

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Students should support all answers with text evidence.

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Key Ideas and Details (What does it say?)

What does the first stanza describe?

(repeat for stanzas 2-6)

2: What are the steel-tipped, ordered lines?

3: What do the words sea-fights and land-fights refer to?

What is the State?

Craft & Structure (What does it mean?)

What does the poet mean when he writes "but more.."?

What do the words *grim* and *great* mean? Why do you think the poet uses both of those adjectives?

Why does the poet say "Hats off!"?

What does "Pride and glory...." mean? Compare stanzas 3 & 4 and the events they describe.

Integration of Ideas (Why does it matter?)

What is the purpose of a parade? (recognition, celebration)

Why does the poet instruct us to take off our hats when the flag goes by?

Possible response: respect

What are we respecting when we remove our hats as the flag goes by?

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