

WE LIVED HAPPILY DURING THE WAR

CRAFTED BY PATRICK MOORMAN



ARMED WITH OUR VOICES

LESSON PLANS

INTRODUCTION

5 minutes

- Write a list of things that significantly affect others but do not affect you.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

10 minutes

- Solidarity—unity or agreement of feeling or action, especially among individuals with a common interest; mutual support within a group.
- What does solidarity mean to you? Can you find ways that the things you wrote on your list affect you?

READ “WE LIVED HAPPILY DURING THE WAR” BY ILYA KAMINSKY

5 minutes

→ VISIT [HTTPS://POETS.ORG/POEM/WE-LIVED-HAPPILY-DURING-WAR](https://poets.org/poem/we-lived-happily-during-war)

- About Kaminsky: Ilya Kaminsky was born in the former Soviet Union city of Odesa in 1977. His family moved to America in 1993 and he’s been writing poems since. He co-founded Poets for Peace and has been active in his critiques of war, specifically the Iraq and Afghanistan War.
- He wrote this poem in 2013.

CONTINUED ON
NEXT PAGE →

PAGE 1

DISCUSS

10 minutes

- What did you notice about this poem?
- What are the pacing and rhythm like? What does this achieve?
- How does this poem connect to the theme of solidarity?

**INDIVIDUAL
WRITING**

15 minutes

- Write a response poem to Kaminsky.
- Where were you/are you during the war? Did you live happily or are you living happily?
- Consider the images Kaminsky uses. What does it look like/feel like/sound like to live during the war?

SHARE

15 minutes

- Have students share the poems they wrote.