Luca Contin Class 4ALS 24/01/17

1. What are funeral rituals and memorials?
2. What are their meaning?

Rituals are symbolic activities that help people to express deepest thoughts and feelings about life’s most important events. In particular, the funeral ritual is a traditional and symbolic means of expressing people’s beliefs, thoughts and feelings about the death of someone loved. So, it looks like a memorial, something that reminds people of someone who has died. Nevertheless, a memorial is something static while a ritual is something dynamic. But there is something deeper in the meanings of memory and remembrance. Indeed, the two terms are apparently synonymous: memory is public, historical or common; remembrance is subjective, personal and sentimental. For this reason rituals and memorials are different. A war memorial is a building, a monument or a statue to celebrate and to commemorate those who died or were injured in a war, preserving the memory of the people involved in the fighting. A funeral rite is more personal. The mourns are more heart-felt. The pain of loss and the grief are true, and people meet together searching for support. In my opinion, this awareness is bringing us a bigger sensitivity, trying to put together memorials and rituals: a result is the letter to an Unknown Soldier.