

English Literature- Conflict Poetry

Year 8, Spring Term.



Key poems:

'Who's for the Game?' by Jessie Pope

A pro-war poem used as propaganda to encourage young men to enlist

'The Soldier' by Rupert Brooke

Early first world war poem, reflecting the early thoughts of men going into battle

'Dulce et Decorum Est' by Wilfred Owen

An anti-war poem reflecting the true horrors of war in the trenches

'The Hero' by Siegfried Sassoon

Written in response to WW1, exposing the lies surrounding the idea of heroism

'Charge of the Light Brigade' by Tennyson

As poet laureate, written to celebrate the bravery of the soldiers killed in the Crimean War.

Language:

Alliteration repetition of consonant sounds '*Rifles rapid rattle*'

Allusion unacknowledged reference and quotations that authors assume their readers will recognise.

Assonance the similarity in sound between two syllables that are close together, created by the same vowels but different consonants '*woke once*'

Metaphor referring to person or object by referring to something with similar characteristics '*It was raining exclamation marks*'

Onomatopoeia a word that mimics the sound it represents '*stuttering rifles rapid rattle*'

Oxymoron a figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear in conjunction '*cold star*'

Personification giving an inanimate object human attributes '*into the jaws of Death*'

Simile comparing 2 things using 'like' or 'as' They fell, like snowflakes wiping out the noon;

Structure :

Anaphora Repetition of the same word or phrase at the beginning of a line within a poem

Couplet two successive rhyming lines.

Enjambment A line having no end punctuation but running over to the next line.

Sonnet format – 14 lines, and is written in iambic pentameter.

Iambic pentameter- a line of verse with five metrical feet, each consisting of one short (unstressed) syllable followed by one long (stressed) syllable, '*What passing bell for these who die like cattle?*'

Meter- the natural stresses of words, which form the rhythmic scheme

Quatrain a four-line stanza or unit of poetry

Sestet a six-line stanza or unit of poetry

Stanza division of lines in a poem

Key Themes:

Bravery, honour, death, anger, war, patriotic ideals, soldiers' lives in war and after

Contextual Information:

- Crimean War –Battle of Balaclava October 1854
- First World War 1914-1918
- Second World War 1939-1945
- Conflict in Northern Ireland 1968-1998

Key words

Anti-war presenting idea that go against the perceived images of war, presenting the brutal truth

Colloquial language spoken slang '*legs it*'

Form poem's physical structure; what the poem looks like and how it sounds.

Evocative language suggestive words which create an image or memory: 'flushing him out'

Image: Images are references that trigger the mind to fuse together memories of the five senses

Jargon- specialist words used by particular groups such as military '*A Saracen, Kremlin-2 mesh. Makrolon face-shields. Walkie-talkies*'.

Tone shows poet's attitude - how would you say the words in the poem?

Voice/persona – who is speaking in the poem

Examples of assessment tasks:

1. A comparison of two conflict poems – Belfast Confetti and Anthem for Doomed Youth
2. How does the poet present war in the poem ...?
3. Why did Brooke write the poem: 'The Soldier', what do you think his message is?

Other poems:

- **'Falling Leaves'** Margaret Postgate Cole
- **'Anthem for Doomed Youth'** Wilfred Owen
- **'Belfast Confetti'** by Ciaran Carson
- **'Mamet Woods'** by Owen Sheers
- **'Remains'** by Simon Armitage
- **'Midnight Air Raid'** by J F Hendry
- **'In Flanders Field'** by John Macrae
- **'There will come soft rain'** by Sarah Teasdale