

Knowledge Organiser: War Poetry

Statement about war:	‘Dulce’ By Wilfred Owen	‘Mametz Wood’ by Owen Sheers	‘The Manhunt’ By Simon Armitage	‘A Wife in London’ By Thomas Hardy	‘The Soldier’ By Rupert Brooke
Conflict is futile/wasteful	“...smothering dreams...the wagon that we flung him in.”	“the wasted young”	N/A	“He – has fallen – in the far South Land...”	Contrast: War is a worthwhile sacrifice. “If I should die...there’s some corner of a foreign field that is for ever England”
Conflict is physically destructive	“Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,”	“the blown/ and broken bird’s egg of a skull”	“the parachute silk of his punctured lung”	“His hand who the worm now knows”	Contrast: does not focus on the death: “A dust who England bore, shaped, made aware,”
Conflict has emotional and psychological effects.	“in...dreams,.../He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning,”	N/A	“a sweating, unexploded mine/ buried deep in his mind,”	“’Tis the morrow; the fog hangs thicker”	Contrast: speaker sees the positive effects in the after-life, “In hearts at peace under an English heaven.”
Conflict can be shocking	“The old lie: Dulce et Decorum Est/ Pro patria mori.”	“and their jaws, those that have them, dropped open.”	“the foetus of metal beneath his chest”	“flashed news is in her hand/ Of meaning it dazes to understand”	Contrast: conflict, leading to death, is seen as peaceful and calm: “And think, this heart, all evil shed away,”
Love can be a support in conflict.	N/A	Comradeship: “in one long grave...linked arm in arm.”	Romantic love: “only then would he let me explore... hold... mind.. Bind... feel”	Romantic love: “And of new love that they would learn” (Irony)	Patriotism: “in that rich earth, a richer dust concealed”
CONTEXT:	Owen: volunteered in 1915 to fight as a soldier in World War 1. Shellshock in 1916-1917. Recovered in Scotland. Poetry: horrors of war. Returned to the battlefield/ shot just one week before the war ended in November 1918.	Poem refers to Battle of the Somme in WW1. Victory for the Welsh but at huge cost - over 4000 Welsh men died. Poet inspired by visiting Welsh memorial/grave site for these men, in France.	Armitage: poet laureate/ no military experience. Written for documentary about PTSD in soldiers in Bosnian crisis. Speaker: Laura, wife of a soldier (Eddie) who returned from Bosnia with both physical and mental injuries.	Hardy: novelist, not a soldier. narrative poem. The two parts are like chapters in a book. Boer War fought in 1899-1902. British troops sent to fight in South Africa. Focus: impact of war on women – the tragedy of loss felt when their husbands die in war.	Brooke: famous young poet/ wrote patriotic poems when WW1 first broke out in 1914. He joined the navy in 1915 but died shortly after enlisting from a mosquito bite, which caused sepsis in his blood. He never fought in WW1 or saw any of the true horrors of war.

Useful vocabulary for discussing how war is presented:

brutal	delicate	desperate	destructive	devastating	disruptive	disturbing	emotional	enduring
fragile	futile	harmful	haunting	horrific	idealistic	loss	permanent	precious
physical	realistic	sacrifice	trauma/ traumatic		violent			

Knowledge Organiser: Key Terminology

Term	Example	Term	Example
<p>alliteration: repetition of the same letter or sound at the beginning of words that are close together.</p>	<p>Mametz Wood: <i>"the <u>b</u>lown/ and <u>b</u>roken <u>b</u>ird's egg of a skull,"</i></p>	<p>personification: to give something non-human or abstract, human characteristics and form.</p>	<p>Mametz Wood: <i>"And even now the earth stands sentinel,"</i></p>
<p>imagery: visually descriptive or figurative language, such as similes or metaphors.</p>	<p>Dulce et Decorum Est: <i>"coughing like hags"</i></p>	<p>repetition: repeating something that has already been written.</p>	<p>The Manhunt <i>"only then..."</i></p>
<p>irony: using language that normally signifies the opposite of what it means.</p>	<p>Dulce et Decorum Est: <i>"Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori"</i></p>	<p>rhyme: correspondence of sound between words or the endings of words, especially at the end of lines.</p>	<p>The Soldier: strong and regular rhyme schemes used for effect: <i>"me-be"; "field-concealed"</i></p>
<p>metaphor: a comparison between two things where one thing is said to be another for effect. An extended metaphor may continue across several lines, or even a whole poem.</p>	<p>Mametz Wood: <i>"a broken mosaic of bone"</i></p>	<p>simile: a direct comparison between two things using 'as' or 'like.'</p>	<p>Dulce et Decorum Est: <i>"Bent double like old beggars"</i></p>
<p>onomatopoeia: a word that sounds like the noise it describes.</p>	<p>Dulce et Decorum Est: <i>"The hoots of gas shells."</i></p>	<p>stanza: a verse of poetry made up of poetic lines</p>	<p>All of the poems use stanzas for differing effects. Ensure you know why.</p>
<p>pathetic fallacy: to give human feelings and responses to inanimate things, especially the weather.</p>	<p>A Wife in London: <i>"She sits in a tawny vapour... webby fold"</i></p>	<p>Structure: the way a poem is arranged or the ideas that are placed at the beginning, middle and end.</p>	<p>The Soldier is a sonnet, to show Brooke's love for his country. The Manhunt is structured in couplets, to represent the strength of the relationship between the couple in the poem.</p>

