

## Exposure by Wilfred Owen

- An autobiographical poem written in 1917 whilst Owen fought in the trenches of WW1, was then hospitalised for PTSD until he tragically died in 1918.
- Owen personifies the weather to deliberately and brutally attack the soldiers without any mercy. They are physically and psychologically damaged.

## Remains by Simon Armitage

- Written in 2008, Armitage was inspired by the harrowing stories of veteran soldiers that he filmed as part of a channel 4 documentary, *The Not Dead*.
- Armitage uses dehumanizing imagery to show how soldiers were taught to be desensitised to war, but – in reality – they are haunted by what they do.

## Bayonet Charge by Ted Hughes

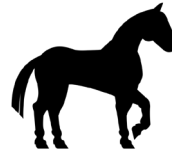
- Written in 1957, Hughes grew up in the shadow of war (his father fought at Gallipoli in WW1, his brother joined the RAF for WW2).
- The poem explores the power of propaganda and then, once at war, the realisation that soldiers have of their vulnerability and the brutality they face.

## Charge of the Light Brigade by Alfred Lord Tennyson

- Written in 1854, the poem is based on a *Times* news report about the British light cavalry facing Russian forces during the Battle of Balaclava, Crimean War. They were outnumbered and the brigade was decimated.
- Tennyson uses powerful metaphors such as 'jaws of death' and 'mouth of hell' to emphasise the bravery of the brigade.

## Poppies by Jane Weir

- Carol Ann Duffy asked a number of writers to compose poems, including Jane Weir. These were published in *The Guardian* in 2009 as a response to the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan and Iraq.
- Weir uses textile imagery in the poem to show how unsettling and worrying it is for a loved one to leave for war because a needle weaves up and down.



Language	
Speaker	Sometimes a poem isn't about the poet; a speaker is used instead.
Simile	Used to make a comparison between two things, using the words <i>as</i> or <i>like</i> .
Metaphor	Used to make a direct comparison between two things ( <i>as</i> or <i>like</i> are not used).
Personification	Giving human characteristics, features of actions to something non-human or inanimate.
Sibilance	Creating a hissing sound through the repetition of consonants 's' 'z' 'c' or 'x'.
Anaphora	Beginning three consecutive sentences in the same way.
Imperatives	A command (verb or sentence).
Remember: we have to say what <i>effect</i> these have e.g. the anaphora in <i>Charge of the Light Brigade</i> shows how the soldiers are trapped by the enemy.	
Structure	
Stanza	A group of lines in a poem.
Refrain	A line that is repeated throughout a poem.
In medias res	Latin for 'in the middle' so the poem starts in the middle of the action.
Free verse	Open poetry that has not rhyme or rhythm.
Dactylic metre	One stressed syllable followed by two unstressed syllables.
Remember: it is about the <i>effect</i> that these have e.g. <i>Bayonet Charge</i> uses <i>in medias res</i> to show us how the soldier was thrown into a brutal battle.	

## London by William Blake

- Written in 1792, Blake used this poem to criticize the oppressive and almost tyrannical ruling of the city by those in power. After living in London all his life, Blake was sick of how the government/church/monarchy treated people.
- The metaphorical 'mind-forg'd manacles' show how everyone's thoughts are trapped and confined: there is no autonomy.

## Ozymandias by Percy Bysshe Shelley

- Written in 1817, the poem is based on the Egyptian Pharaoh Ramesses II, who wanted to be remembered forever and so built statues and memorials.
- Shelley uses contrast and juxtaposition to show how powerful Ozymandias tried to be and then how broken he became thanks to time and nature.

## My Last Duchess by Robert Browning

- Written in 1842, the poem is about a jealous and controlling Duke who appears to have had his wife killed. It is based on Alfonso II, fifth duke of Ferrara, whose young bride Lucrezia suspiciously died after only two years.
- Browning uses language through that objectifies the Duchess, as if she is just something that the Duke owns and can dispose of whenever he wants.

## Checking Out Me History by John Agard

- Written in 2005, Agard criticises the education he received in Guyana when it was owned by the British Empire. They were only taught white British history.
- Agard provides examples of the history he wishes he has been taught and uses light imagery to show how this has shown him his true identity.

## The Prelude by William Wordsworth

- Written in 1799, the poem is an autobiographical experience of the poet visiting a mountain. He expected peace and beauty but ended up terrified.
- Despite starting with positive imagery, the poem then uses personification to make it seem as if the mountain is more dominating and powerful than man.



Language	
Repetition	Where a word or phrase is repeated.
Alliteration	Where several words start with the same letter.
Tripling	Three parallel phrases or words, which come in quick succession without interruption.
Contrast	Where opposing concepts or ideas are employed.
Juxtaposition	Placing two opposite ideas close together.
Oxymoron	Two words of opposite meaning sat side by side.
Remember: we have to say what <i>effect</i> these have e.g. in London, the word 'charter'd' is repeated to show how every part of the city is owned and controlled.	
Structure	
Quatrain	Four lines in a stanza.
ABAB rhyme	Where the first and third lines, and the second and fourth lines rhyme.
Sonnet	A 14-line love poem.
Dramatic monologue	The poem is told from one person's point of view, allowing the reader into the inner thoughts of the speaker.
Rhyming couplets	A rhyming pair of successive lines of verse, typically of the same length.
Volta	A turn or change in the poem.
Remember: it is about the <i>effect</i> that these have e.g. My Last Duchess is written as a dramatic monologue to show how paranoid the Duke is and to reveal his confession about his wife's death.	

## Storm on the island by Seamus Heaney

- Written in 1966, the poem explores the impact of a violent storm on a small island showing how powerful nature and the weather is.
- However, it could also be about the conflict and war in Northern Ireland from the late 1960s to the late 1990s, called The Troubles.
- The violent language throughout: 'blast', 'pummels', 'exploding', 'bombarded' could show the power of the storm or the chaotic conflict of The Troubles.

## War Photographer by Carol Ann Duffy

- Written in 1985, the poem explores how a war photographer who must take tragic and heartbreaking photos of war, hoping they'll make a difference (the poem is likely based on Duffy's friendship two well-known war photographers).
- Religious imagery shows how the photographer honours & respects the dead.

## Kamikaze by Beatrice Garland

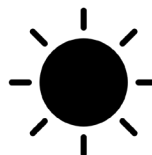
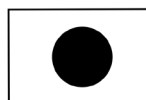
- Written in 2013, the poem focuses on the social pressure put on Japanese soldiers to be kamikaze pilots and sacrifice their lives during World War Two.
- The poem follows a kamikaze pilot changing his mind and becoming isolated from his family who 'treated him as though he no longer existed'.

## The Émigrée by Carol Rumens

- Written in 1993, the poem explores refugees who have to leave their homes due to war but try to remember them fondly and not as places of terror.
- The speaker has a positive memory of their home, despite leaving it, using imagery of sunlight to show how she remembers it as a beautiful place.

## Tissue by Imtiaz Dharker

- Written in 2006, the poem discusses the idea of paper and how it is similar to life: it can be fragile, it can become something amazing, it can cause conflict.
- Items made from paper are listed (books, maps, receipts, building designs) to show how powerful paper is, but also human life and what we do with it.



Language	
Pathetic fallacy	Giving human qualities to aspects of nature, or using nature to reflect human emotions or events.
Semantic field	A set of words related by their meaning.
Imagery	Visually descriptive or figurative language.
Extended metaphor	A metaphor that is developed in great detail, across several lines or a throughout the whole text.
Remember: we have to say what <i>effect</i> these have e.g. In Tissue, paper serves as an extended metaphor for human life, described as 'fine', 'thin' and 'transparent' as it is fragile like life.	
Structure	
Enjambment	Where an idea in a line continues onto the line below without pause.
Caesura	A pause near the middle of a line of poetry, shown by punctuation.
Cyclical	Where events start and end at the same place.
Half-rhyme	Where the final words in each line almost rhyme but not quite (the stressed consonant syllables match, but the preceding vowel sounds do not).
Iambic pentameter	Ten syllables in a line which rotate between unstressed syllables and stressed syllables.
Punctuation	Some poems use punctuation to show finality whereas some poems use very little punctuation for different reasons.
Remember: it is about the <i>effect</i> that these have e.g. War Photographer has rhyming couplets as the photographer tries to bring order to the chaos.	