

Poetry Revision

Key Learning:

Revision of Power and Conflict poetry

Exposure (war/nature)



- Poet's personal experiences of World War I
- Personification used throughout to portray the weather as the 'real' enemy
- Focuses on the harsh reality of war - reflects the poet's anger and sense of hopelessness
- Regular stanzas to reflect the sense that their situation never changes and that they are doomed
- Repetition of key phrases (but nothing happens) highlights that there is no actual fighting and the weather is slowly killing them

Exposure - Key Quotes

- But nothing happens.
- ...war lasts, rain soaks and clouds sag stormy...
- ...flowing flakes that flock, pause and renew...
- Slowly our ghosts drag home...
- All their eyes are ice...



War Photographer (war)

- Photographer's experiences of photographing war zones
- Alliteration and metaphor used to convey the reality and horror of war
- Focuses on the harsh reality of war/impact on the individual - a challenge to the reader
- Regular stanzas to reflect the idea that war is never ending -will always have to be reported on. Also reflects hi need for order in the chaos of war
- Contrasts of warzones and home emphasise the photographer's unease/lasting effect of war



War Photographer - Key Quotes

- ...spools of suffering...
- ...as though this were a church and he a priest...
- ...running children in a nightmare heat...
- ...a half formed ghost...
- A hundred agonies in black and white...



Charge of the Light Brigade (war)

- Poet's reflection on the soldiers' experiences of war - Battle from Crimean War
- Repetition used to emphasise how many men were killed
- Focuses on the reality of war/impact on the soldiers - a plea to the reader to ensure these soldiers are remembered
- Irregular stanza at the end to emphasise the amount of death - need for remembrance
- Biblical references - soldiers faith and devotion?
- Range of powerful verbs to reflect action and pace of the battle



Charge of the Light Brigade - Key Quotes

- The valley of Death...
- Theirs not to make reply, theirs not to reason why, theirs but to do or die
- ...storm'd at with shot and shell
- When can their glory fade?
- Noble six hundred!



Remains (war)



- Soldier's reflection of war - impact on individual
- Alliteration and verb choices used to convey brutality of war
- Focuses on the impact on the soldiers - gets reader to consider the lasting effect on those who survive - questions how these soldiers are treated/supported after they return
- Irregular stanza at the end to emphasise the lasting effect of war/killing in name of war
- Repetition used to emphasise feelings of guilt and the idea that the memories continue to 'repeat' in soldier's mind
- Enjambment - personal and continuous memory

Remains - Key Quotes



- ...probably armed, possibly not.
- ...every round as it rips through his life...
- ...blood-shadow stays on the street...
- End of story, except not really.
- ...his bloody life in my bloody hands.

Kamikaze (war/nature)



- Speaker's reflection of her father at war - impact on individual
- Simile and metaphor used to convey beauty of nature and futility of war
- Focuses on the impact of NOT fighting on the pilot - gets reader to consider the lasting effect on those who survive - questions how these soldiers are treated/supported after they return
- Regular stanzas reflect the rigidity of military and cultural rules. Italics suggest the way he is treated when he returns - the hope vs the reality
- Enjambment - personal to the daughter - also reflects the cycle of life/nature - life/nature continues despite what man does

Kamikaze - Key Quotes

- ...one-way journey into history...
- ...strung out like bunting...
- ...silver... (repeated)
- ...as though he no longer existed...
- ...we too learned to be silent.



Bayonet Charge (war)



- Poet's reflection of soldiers at war - impact on individual
- Metaphors and verbs used to convey the act of going 'over the top' in battle (WWI)
- Focuses on the impact of fighting on the soldier - begins with fear and changes tone until the soldier realises he is nothing more than an instrument of war himself - kill or be killed
- Shorter middle stanza reflect the soldier's momentary pause - he is moving in stanza 1 and 3
- Enjambment - reflects the speed and pace of the attack. Dashes used to create pauses.

Bayonet Charge - Key Quotes



- ...stumbling across a field of clods...
- ...lugged a rifle as numb as a smashed arm...
- In bewilderment then he almost stopped...
- ...his foot hung like statuary in mid stride...
- King, honour, human dignity etcetera...

Poppies (war)



- Speaker's reflection of son going to war - impact on individual (those left at home)
- Metaphors and similes used to convey the feelings of both the mother and the son
- Focuses on the impact of war on the family left behind - war affects the mother despite her not seeing actual fighting/battle
- Irregular stanzas reflect the mother's unstable/emotional response to her son leaving
- Enjambment - reflects the personal and emotional response of the speaker -the lines spill over, as do her feelings.

Poppies - Key Quotes



- ...spasms of paper red...
- Sellotape bandaged around my hand...
- ...steeled the softening of my face...
- ...my words flattened, rolled, turned into felt...
- ...the world overflowing like a treasure chest...
- ...my stomach busy making tucks, darts, pleats...

The Emigrée (war)



- Speaker's reflection of leaving a war-torn country- impact on individual (civilians forced to leave home)
- Metaphors and similes used to convey the speaker's feelings about her home country
- Focuses on the impact of war on the civilians - speaker was a child when she was forced to emigrate - impact on the innocent
- Final stanza is one line longer - reflects idea that her positive memories of her homeland will remain with her/stronger than ideas of war
- Enjambment - reflects the personal and emotional memory of the speaker.

The Emigrée - Key Quotes



- ...my memory of it is sunlight clear...
- ...the bright, filled paperweight.
- ...I am branded by the impression of sunlight...
- It tastes of sunlight
- My city takes me dancing...

Tissue (people)



- Explores the importance/power of people and how paper is used to create change/evolution
- Extended metaphor of paper used to represent buildings, people etc - suggests the fragility of these things despite them seeming like they have ultimate power
- The final stanza is one line in length (unlike the others which are all regular) which draws our attention to it. Separating out this line emphasises the connection between paper and skin, showing the significance of human life.
- Enjambment - creates irregular rhythm to reflect fluttering of paper or the fleeting moments of human life/power

Tissue - Key Quotes

- Paper thinned by age or touching...
- ...pages smoothed and stroked and turned...
- ...buildings...how easily they fall away on a sigh...
- ...fly our lives like paper kites...
- ...a structure never meant to last...



Ozymandias (people/nature)



- Explores the importance/power of people and how this is fleeting - a traveller tells the story of seeing the broken statue
- Statue used as a metaphor for the power/lack of power belonging to Ozymandias
- Written in sonnet form (14 lines) with a colon to separate the speakers - traveller and Ozymandias
- Language suggests he was a cruel and harsh ruler - arrogant to believe his power would last forever - this makes him seem foolish

Ozymandias - Key Quotes

- ...vast and trunkless legs of stone...
- ...sneer of cold command...
- ...king of kings...
- Nothing beside remains.
- ...colossal wreck...



My Last Duchess (people)



- Explores the power of people through the story of the Duke - his abuse of power and his arrogance
- Uses painting as symbol of his possessive nature - needs total and absolute control
- Written in dramatic monologue form - the Duke is telling his story - seems to take pride in his aggressive and brutal actions - warning to the Count's daughter?
- The Duke's jealousy, paranoia and desperate need for power are evident throughout the poem - he 'name drops' as a way of flaunting his importance

My Last Duchess - Key Quotes



- ...looking as if she were alive...
- ...none puts by the curtain the curtain I have drawn for you, but I..
- ...'twas not her husband's presence only, called that spot of joy into the Duchess' cheek...
- ...too soon made glad, too easily impressed...
- This grew; I gave commands; then all smiles stopped together.

Storm on the Island (nature)



- Explores the power of nature and the vulnerability of people and man-made things
- Poem is in blank verse, using enjambment as a way of reflecting the idea that the speaker is recounting a personal experience. Could also suggest the continuous attack from the weather.
- Use of the present tense creates a sense of drama - as though the storm is happening now and we, as humans, are completely powerless to stop it
- Personification and simile used to convey the dominance, violence and destructive power of nature

Storm on the Island - Key Quotes

- We are prepared...
- ...you can listen to the thing you fear...
- ...You might think that the sea is company, exploding comfortably...
- ...spits like a tame cat turned savage...
- We are bombarded by the empty air...
- ...it is a huge nothing we fear...



The Prelude (nature)

- Speaker's reflection of his own place in the world and his realisation that nature is more powerful than man
- Personification of nature conveys it as powerful and intimidating
- One continuous stanza and use of enjambment - reflects the idea that the speaker is recounting this event
- Imagery used creates a sense of horror and nightmares - this emphasises the effect nature has on the poets and how it shapes his experiences of being out on the lake



The Prelude - Key Quotes

- ...troubled pleasure...
- ...far above was nothing but the stars and grey sky...
- ...a huge peak, black and huge...
- ...the grim shape towered up between me and the stars...
- ...huge and mighty forms that do not live like living men...

London (people)



- Describes a journey around London, offering a glimpse of what the speaker sees as the terrible conditions faced by the inhabitants of the city
- Criticises religion (Blake had lost his faith) - suggests that the Church should be doing more to help those in need
- Regular stanzas lead the reader through the 'streets' as Blake notes the failings and lack of power experienced by London's people
- Poem is full of negative words to reflect speaker's viewpoint - the poem's message is pessimistic; without hope for the future

London - Key Quotes

- ...marks of weakness, marks of woe...
- ...mind forged manacles...
- Every black'ning church appalls...
- ...hapless soldier's cry...
- ...marriage hearse...



Checking Out Me History (people)



- Explores the power of people through identity and heritage
- This poem draws on Agard's experience to make us look at the way history is taught, and at how we conceive our identity as we learn about cultural traditions and narratives
- Alternates between **two structures**, marked by two different fonts to represent the different parts of the poet's heritage
- Use of comparisons to show the importance of a variety of historical figures
- Non-standard English used as a way of reclaiming own heritage and as a challenge to the reader

Checking Out Me History - Key Quotes

- Dem tell me... (repeated)
- Bandage up me eye with me own history
- ...dem never tell me bout... (repeated)
- I carving out me identity.

