



Power and Conflict Poetry English Literature GCSE

Romanticism 1770-1850 → Victorian 1837-1901 → World War 1 1914 - 1918 → World War 2 1939-1945 → Modern → Contemporary

						
Poem	Content (AO1)	Quotations (AO1)	Methods (AO2)	Context (AO3)		
Ozymandias (Shelley 1818)	A derelict statue in the desert. The statue was of a tyrannical and boastful ruler.	'Two vast and trunkless legs of stone' 'sneer of cold command' "Look on my Works, ye mighty, and despair!" 'Nothing besides remains' 'The lone and level sands stretch far away'	Sonnet, enjambement, pace, alliteration plosives	Romanticism radical anti-establishment ideas age of revolution		
London (Blake 1794) From <i>Songs of Experience</i>	The narrator walks through London describing the terrible living conditions he sees and hears.	'mark in every face I meet / Marks of weakness, marks of woe' 'mind-forged manacles' 'Every blackning Church appalls' 'runs in blood down place walls' 'youthful harlot's curse / Blasts the new-born infant's tear'	quatrains; iambic tetrameter; pace; repetition: 'each' 'every' alternate rhyme alliteration	Romanticism working class poet Blake rejected established religion industrial revolution / urbanisation age of revolution		
Extract from the Prelude (Wordsworth 1799)	The narrator takes a boat out on a lake at night, alone. A mountain looms over him.	'it was an act of stealth and troubled pleasure' 'Small circles glittering idly in the moon' 'a huge peak, black and huge' 'grim shape / Towered up' 'like a living thing' 'moved slowly through the mind'	personification epic poem blank verse iambic pentameter metaphor simile	Romanticism radical anti-establishment ideas age of revolution; nature the individual (solitude) industrial revolution autobiographical		
My Last Duchess (Browning 1842)	Duke of Ferrara shows an emissary a painting of his late wife. Hints he had her killed.	'Looking as if she were alive' 'I call that piece a wonder' 'spot of joy' 'A heart [...] too soon made glad' 'My git of a nine-hundred-years-old-name' 'I gave commands; / then all smiles stopped'	dramatic monologue iambic pentameter rhyming couplets alliteration; caesura enjambement;	Patriarchal society Lucrezia de Medici died aged 17 Arranged marriages (dowry) Objectification and control Social status and hierarchy		
The Charge of	Miscommunication:	'Into the valley of Death/ Rode the six hundred'	dactylic dimeter	Poet Laureate. The Crimean war		



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the Light Brigade (Tennyson 1854)	troops told to charge towards the guns of the Russians.	'Someone had blundered' 'Theirs not to reason why, Theirs but to do and die' 'Came through the jaws of Death'	repetition six stanzas speech Biblical allusion	1854 The Battle of Balaclava, 110 soldiers were killed and 160 were wounded.
Exposure (Owen 2017)	A company of soldiers suffers cold in the trenches during WW1. They question why they are there.	"the merciless iced east winds that knife us" "But nothing happens." "the flickering gunnery rumbles,/Far off, like a dull rumour of some other war." "Sudden successive flights of bullets streak the silence./Less deadly than the air that shudders black with snow,"	Complex structure Alliteration Assonance Repetition Line length	The horrors of life in WW1 in the winter of 1917 contrasting the glory portrayed in the British media.
Bayonet Charge (Hughes 1957)	Describes the experience of 'going over the top' in WW1.	'Hearing / Bullets smacking the belly out of the air -' 'He lugged a rifle numb as a smashed arm' 'cold clockwork of the stars and the nations' 'King, honour, human dignity, etcetera 'Dropped like luxuries'	free verse punctuation In media res	Process transforms soldier from living thinking person into dangerous weapon. Trench warfare. Hughes' father
Storm on the Island (Heaney 1966)	An isolated cliff-top cottage on island during a violent storm.	'We are prepared: we build our houses squat, 'the flung spray hits / The very windows, spits like a tame cat / Turned savage' 'We are bombarded by the empty air' 'exploding' 'strafe' 'salvo'	first person plural pronoun Semantic field of war extended metaphor	Conflict in Northern Ireland (Unionists / Nationalists) Power of nature



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War Photographer (Duffy 1985)	The speaker describes a photographer whose job it is to capture images of war.	“spools of suffering set out in ordered rows” “all flesh is grass” “running children in a nightmare heat” “blood stained into foreign dust” “he has a job to do”	Caesura Sibilance Imagery Third person perspective	Duffy was inspired by her friendship with a war photographer and the challenges faced by people whose job requires them to record terrible events without being able to help.
The Émigrée (Rumens 1993)	The speaker has left their country as a child to be safe. A reflection on past and present experiences.	“there was once a country” “it may be sick with tyrants” “it tastes of sunlight” “my city hides behind me”	Figurative language Extended metaphor Personification	The poet was born in South London and witnessed first-hand the increasing diversity in the capital and the discrimination that accompanied.
Poppies (Weir 2005)	Mother’s experience of pain and loss. Spoken to her son who died in a war, linked to other memories of him.	‘I pinned one onto your lapel, crimped petals, / spasms of paper red,’ ‘Later a single dove flew’ ‘skirting the church yard walls, my stomach busy / making tucks, darts, pleats,’	Extended metaphor Cyclical structure	Armistice Day Iran and Afghanistan wars Contemporary England
Checking Out Me History (Agard 2005)	The speaker challenges Eurocentric education and how it can be detrimental to identity.	“bandage up me eye with me own history” “dem tell me wha dem want to tell me” “blind me to me own identity” “I carving out me own identity”	Phonetic spelling Dialect Violent imagery Metaphor	Colonialism. Agard emigrated to the UK from British Guiana in 1977. Eurocentric Education system.
Tissue (Dharker 2006)	Explores paper and how it relates to life: journeys, money and home. Important and fragile.	“Paper that lets the light/shine through” “fly our lives like paper kites.” “find a way to trace a grand design/with living tissue, raise a structure/ never meant to last,” “paper smoothed and stroked/and thinned to be transparent,/turned into your skin”	Enjambement Impressionistic Extended metaphor	Born in Pakistan and grew up in Scotland. themes of identity, the search for meaning.
Remains	Narrator describes	‘One of my mates goes by / and tosses his guts	free verse	Armitage made a film (2007) <i>The</i>



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(Armitage 2008)	an experience in a military conflict in which a looter died, which haunts him (PTSD)	back into his body' 'Dream, and he's torn apart' 'And the drinks and the drugs won't flush him out - / he's here in my head when I close my eyes. / dug n behind enemy lines' 'his bloody life in my bloody hands'	In media res conversational tone first person narrator colloquial language plosives	<i>Not Dead</i> interviewing veterans from wars – poem based on an interview Gulf War PTSD
Kamikaze (Garland 2013)	A daughter of a Japanese Kamikaze pilot reflects on her father's decision to not carry out his duty.	"one way journey into history" "dark shoals of fishes flashing silver" "no longer the father we loved" "which had been the better way to die"	Sibilance Enjambement Nature imagery Caesura	Japanese Kamikaze pilots were conscripted to suicide missions in WW2. It was the ultimate honour to die for your country.

Overview: What is this poem about? (story? themes?) When / where was it set? Who wrote it? Who speaks it? Why? (themes) Tone	Structure Title First line – last line Stanza length / type Narrative voice (changes?) Tense (changes?) Enjambement Pace (punctuation, rhythm) repetition	Sentence and word Questions Exclamatives Ellipsis Simile Metaphor Oxymoron Symbol Pathetic fallacy Semantic field Connotations	Sound Alliteration Assonance Sibilance Fricatives Plosives Onomatopoeia Harsh or soft sounds Rhyme and rhythm
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