

Poem Summaries

1	The Soldier Rupert Brooke	This is a sonnet in which Brooke glorifies England during WW1. He speaks as an English soldier as he is leaving home to go to war. The poem represents the patriotic ideals that characterised pre-war England.
2	Who's for the Game? Jessie Pope	Her representation of war is describing war as being fun and full of glory! Pope suggests in the poem that a young man who could go to war would be very courageous.
3	Dulce et Decorum est Wilfred Owen	This is a poem about the horrors of war as experienced by a soldier on the front lines of WW1. The speaker depicts soldiers trudging through the trenches, weakened by injuries and fatigue. Suddenly, the men come under attack and must quickly put on their gas masks.
4	Does it Matter? Siegfried Sassoon	The poem shows a negative way of war, describing feelings and thoughts soldiers go through once they finish their service. The poem emphasises society's feelings towards the soldiers who have suffered from war.
5	Suicide in the Trenches Siegfried Sassoon	Sassoon is actually criticising the loneliness, health conditions, patriotism and also the lack of resources that the soldiers faced while they are in the trenches. He also explains the selflessness and the love for the country of a soldier.
6	Futility Wilfred Owen	Futility describes an event where a group of soldiers attempt to revive an unconscious soldier by moving him into the warm sunlight on a snowy meadow. However, the "kind old sun" cannot help the soldier - he has died.
7	War Girls Jessie Pope	War Girls is one of the first poems that highlights the work done by women in the war. Each of the girls the poet describes are doing a job that has traditionally been done by a man; ticket collectors, elevator operators, milkmen - all of these roles have belonged to men.
8	Perhaps (To R.A.L.) Vera Brittain	A poem dedicated to Vera's late fiancé, Roland Leighton. There is continuous repetition of the term 'Perhaps' at the start of each stanza. Brittain is expressing the uncertainty yet possibility behind her ever feeling the way she did before.
9	The Gift of India Sarojini Naidu	The poem is a tribute to the contribution of Indian soldiers in World War I. Over one million Indian soldiers from the British Indian Empire served in the Allied forces in the First World War.
10	Anzac John Le Gay Brereton	"Anzac" describes an honourable and noble soldier or a survivor of the Great War who is mourning and remembering his fellow brothers in arms.

Themes

1	Honour	Young soldiers going to War were Patriotic and were doing this for their country. It was an honourable thing to do.
2	Suffering	The true reality of War and what the soldiers were faced to do at War. The horrible experiences they went through.
3	Loss of innocence	Soldiers going to War were young and naïve. Everything about their youth was drained and taken away.

Context

1	WWI	World War One took place between 1914-1918. Soldiers thought the War would be over by Christmas and did not expect the realism and brutality they faced.
2	Propaganda	Propaganda was employed on a global scale. This was used to mobilise hatred for the enemy and force young people to War.
3	Shellshock	World War One became known as 'The Great War', it was the War 'to end all wars'. Soldiers suffered shellshock through the destruction and devastation caused.

Key Vocabulary

1	Symbolism	Using symbols to signify qualities and ideas by giving them symbolic meaning beyond their literal sense.
2	Satire	Using humour and irony to expose to criticise something. Used to show the reality of War, it wasn't what everyone expected.
3	Propaganda	Misleading or biased information to promote a political cause or point of view. Used to get soldiers to go to War.
4	Pathos	This is language that evokes feelings of pity or sorrow. Something we may feel reading War poetry.
5	Enjambment	The continuation of a sentence without a pause beyond the end line. Enjambment in these poems can represent something about War.
6	Patriotism	Devoting yourself to support your country. Feeling national pride and love for your nation.
7	Sonnet	A poem consisting of 14 lines that usually consists of 10 syllables per lines. A sonnet is typically a love poem.