

# GRAYS TUITION CENTRE – Online Tutoring

**WEEK: 11**

**Week Beginning: (01/03/2021)**

**Subject: ENGLISH**

**Year: 7**

## **Lesson Objective:**

- Be able to analyse war poetry and be able to emphasise the importance of poetry being used as a voice against conflict.
- Be able to imply the literacy technique effects and then to explain how certain words create an

## **Keywords/ Concepts**

- War novels.
- Connotations
- Form and structure.

## **Class Worksheets**

- For class work- Two poems from conflict anthology.

## **Homework Worksheets**

- Worksheet on Wilfred Owen.

## **Additional Notes**

In his darkroom he is finally alone  
with spools of suffering set out in ordered rows.  
The only light is red and softly glows,  
as though this were a church and he  
a priest preparing to intone a Mass.  
Belfast. Beirut. Phnom Penh. All flesh is grass.

He has a job to do. Solutions slop in trays  
beneath his hands which did not tremble then  
though seem to now. Rural England. Home again  
to ordinary pain which simple weather can dispel,  
to fields which don't explode beneath the feet  
of running children in a nightmare heat.

Something is happening. A stranger's features  
faintly start to twist before his eyes,  
a half-formed ghost. He remembers the cries  
of this man's wife, how he sought approval  
without words to do what someone must  
and how the blood stained into foreign dust.

A hundred agonies in black-and-white  
from which his editor will pick out five or six  
for Sunday's supplement. The reader's eyeballs prick  
with tears between bath and pre-lunch beers.  
From aeroplane he stares impassively at where  
he earns a living and they do not care.

**Answer the following questions to explore the way Duffy uses literary techniques to convey meaning in the poem.**

1. What is the effect of the metaphor and sibilance in the line two?
2. What is the effect of the setting of this poem (consider light, darkness, and isolation) and why might the darkroom be a sanctuary?
3. Why might he draw a parallel between himself and a priest?
4. This use of parataxis in line six is key because it creates a quite blunt tone- what is significant about this list? What does the metaphor at the end mean?
5. What is the effect of the monosyllabic first line in the second stanza?
6. There is a double meaning of 'solutions'. In what ways might these photographs act as solutions?
7. What is the effect of the enjambment in the first three lines of the second stanza? What does the line 'which did not tremble then through seem to now' mean? What is the significance of the gentle, poignant verb 'tremble'?
8. What does he mean by 'ordinary pain'?
9. We have a moment of sustained enjambment in the third stanza, as a painful memory is experienced. He is photographing a dying man- how does Duffy portray the photographer as being sensitive and respectful here?
10. What point is Duffy making when she describes the eyes of readers and uses internal rhyme to link it to 'beers'?
11. At the end, the photographer sets off on another expedition. How is the language used to convey his sense of detachment from English?
12. What is the significance of the final line and what does it suggest about the theme of increasing indifference to the victims of conflict?

### **Form and structure**

How was the poem laid out? What might be the effect of this?

### **Analytical paragraphs**

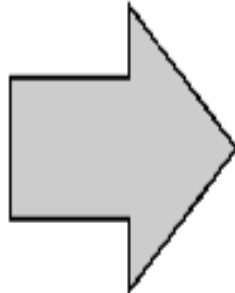
- a. How is the horror of war conveyed in this poem? Select three quotations and analyse these in detail.
- b. How is the photographer presented in this poem? Make three point about his character and his role.



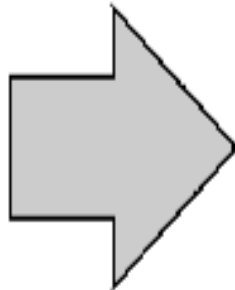
# War Photographer



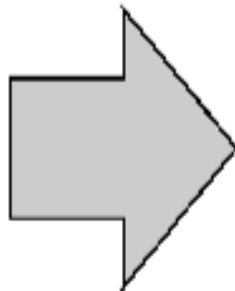
'He has a job to do' line 7,  
what exactly is the war  
photographer's job?



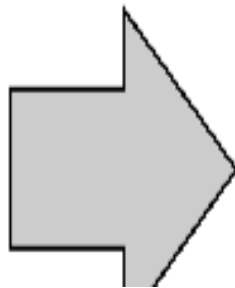
Which lines have the greatest  
effect on you? Look at the  
poet's words and try to  
analyse why the lines you  
have selected make you feel  
the way they do. Do you  
think the poem has changed  
your 'perception in new ways  
altogether'?



The poem conveys the  
reactions of the photographer;  
the editor of the newspaper  
and its readers to the  
photographs of war. How do  
you think these reactions  
differ?



Explain 'spools of suffering'  
line 2 and 'all flesh is grass'  
line 6. How do these **images**  
seem to belittle suffering until  
you consider them carefully?



## Exposure

Our brains ache, in the merciless iced east winds that knife us...  
Wearied we keep awake because the night is silent...

Low, drooping flares confuse our memories of the salient...  
Worried by silence, sentries whisper, curious, nervous,

5 But nothing happens.

Watching, we hear the mad gusts tugging on the wire,  
Like twitching agonies of men among its brambles.  
Northward, incessantly, the flickering gunnery rumbles,  
Far off, like a dull rumour of some other war.

10 What are we doing here?

The poignant misery of dawn begins to grow...  
We only know war lasts, rain soaks, and clouds sag stormy.  
Dawn massing in the east her melancholy army  
Attacks once more in ranks on shivering ranks of grey,

15 But nothing happens.

Sudden successive flights of bullets streak the silence.  
Less deadly than the air that shudders black with snow,  
With sidelong flowing flakes that flock, pause, and renew,  
We watch them wandering up and down the wind's nonchalance,

20 But nothing happens.

Pale flakes with fingering stealth come feeling for our faces –  
We cringe in holes, back on forgotten dreams, and stare, snow-  
dazed,

Deep into grassier ditches. So we drowse, sun-dozed,  
Littered with blossoms trickling where the blackbird fusses.

25 Is it that we are dying?

Slowly our ghosts drag home: glimpsing the sunk fires, glozed  
With crusted dark-red jewels; crickets jingle there;  
For hours the innocent mice rejoice: The house is theirs;  
Shutters and doors, all closed: on us the doors are closed, –

30 We turn back to our dying.

Since we believe not otherwise can kind fires burn;  
Nor ever suns smile true on child, or field, or fruit.  
For God's invincible spring our love is made afraid;  
Therefore, not loath, we lie out here; therefore were born,

35 For love of God seems dying.

Tonight, His frost will fasten on this mud and us,  
Shrivelling many hands, puckering foreheads crisp.  
The burying party, picks and shovels in the shaking grasp,  
Pause over half-known faces. All their eyes are ice,

40 But nothing happens.

*Wilfred Owen*

**Answer these following questions:**

1. Who do you think is narrating this poem?
2. Where do you think they are? What is happening around them?
3. How are they feeling? How do you know?

Match the language feature and quotation or example from the poem, to the effect on the reader.

Language feature	Example / Quotation	What effect does it have on the reader? How does it make you feel?
<b>1. Use of the senses</b> <i>What can you see, feel and hear?</i> <i>What colours are used?</i>	"drooping flares" and "merciless iced east winds"	a) The wind is given human characteristics, emphasising the cruelty of nature and suffering of the soldiers.
<b>2. Verbs</b> <i>Are there any new, unusual or interesting verbs?</i>	"...winds that <b>knife</b> us"	b) The silence and stillness of the soldiers, presented against the treacherous weather conditions builds a sense of tension and foreboding.
<b>3. Adjectives</b> <i>Are there any new, unusual or interesting adjectives?</i>	" <b>merciless</b> iced east winds"	c) A vivid and brutal action / visual image that shocks the reader.
<b>4. References to death</b> <i>What language is used to convey the idea of death?</i> <i>Are there any images that stand out?</i>	The image of the wind as a murderous enemy. The silent, whispering sentries.	d) Repetition of the 's' sound ('sibilance') creates a sense of being 'hushed'.
<b>5. Any other features</b> <i>Is there anything else that you find interesting or striking, e.g. use of rhyme or repetition? Do you notice any other themes e.g. nature, religion in the poem?</i>	"worried by <b>silence</b> , <b>sentries</b> whisper, <b>curious</b> , <b>nervous</b> "	e) The reader can almost feel the intensity of the wind, drawing them into the scene and inviting them to empathise with the soldiers.

Language feature	Example / Quotation	What effect does it have on the reader? How does it make you feel?
<b>Use of the senses</b> <i>What can you see, feel and hear?</i> <i>What colours are used?</i>		
<b>Verbs</b> <i>Are there any new, unusual or interesting verbs?</i>		
<b>Adjectives</b> <i>Are there any new, unusual or interesting adjectives?</i>		
<b>References to death</b> <i>What language is used to convey the idea of death?</i> <i>Are there any images that stand</i>		

**Read and reflect on the following questions:**

1. As an officer in the army, Wilfred Owen wrote poetry on the subject of war to speak for the men in his care, and to show the 'Pity of War'. Do you think the poem is effective in doing this?
2. Which words, phrases or images do you find most interesting, moving, or disturbing? Are there any words or phrases that you find confusing?
3. What experiences or subjects do you think are important? Do you think poetry is a good way to convey an experience to others?

## Homework!

### Inspection

'You! What d'you mean by this?' I rapped.  
'You dare come on parade like this?'  
'Please, sir, it's-' 'Old yer mouth,' the sergeant snapped.  
'I takes 'is name, sir?'-'Please, and then dismiss.'

Some days 'confined to camp' he got,  
For being 'dirty on parade'.  
He told me, afterwards, the damnèd spot  
Was blood, his own. 'Well, blood is dirt,' I said.

'Blood's dirt,' he laughed, looking away,  
Far off to where his wound had bled  
And almost merged for ever into clay.  
'The world is washing out its stains,' he said.  
'It doesn't like our cheeks so red:  
Young blood's its great objection.

But when we're duly white-washed, being dead,  
The race will bear Field-Marshal God's inspection.'

Wilfred Owen

- Write your initial impressions on this poem.
- Comment on at least 3 quotations- analyse structure, any language techniques used and tone.
- Write the intentions of Owen upon writing this poem.
- Line 13 contains enjambment, write why you think it is important and effective.