

Hollis Academy English Department

Home Learning Booklet: Year 10

Power and Conflict Poetry

Research and Context



Look at the two keywords for our unit. Write as many associated words around each word as you think of.

Power

Conflict

Here is the list of poems you will read for this section of your GCSE.

Next to each title have a guess at what you think the poem might be about.

Charge of the Light Brigade

Exposure

Remains

Bayonet Charge

Poppies

War Photographer

Kamikaze

Storm on the Island

Ozymandias

My Last Duchess

The Emigree

Tissue

Checkin' Out My History

London

Prelude

Charge of the Light Brigade by Alfred Lord Tennyson

- The poem is based on an incident in The Crimean War
- The War was between Britain and Russia from 1853-1856
- The most significant moment in the battle came when an order was misunderstood in the Battle of Balaclava and 600 soldiers (the Light Brigade) charged down a valley straight into the fire of Russian cannons
- Over 150 soldiers were killed, 120 injured. The newspapers called them heroes.



Look at the picture of the Light Brigade making their charge.

Write a description as if you were one of the soldiers.

Think about what you can see and hear

Use a simile

Use onomatopoeia

Exposure by Wilfred Owen

- The poet Wilfred Owen was a soldier in World War 1 (1914-1918)
- He fought in the trenches and he wanted people back home to know what it was like so he wrote a poem about it.
- He often spent days at a time in the trenches in winter in snow and ice and said “it was a frozen desert. The marvel is we did not all die of cold.”

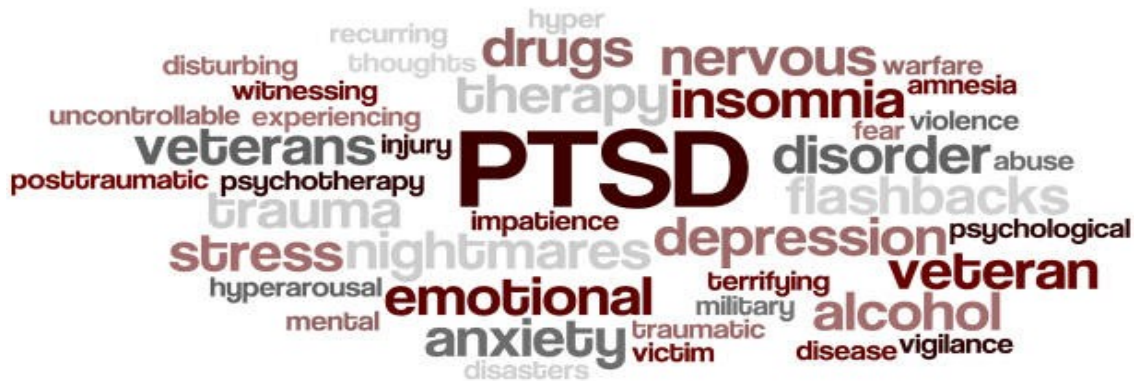


1. Think about the weather in the trenches. Why do you think the poem is called Exposure?
2. What does MERCILESS mean?
3. Why do you think nature might be seen to be powerful in this situation?

Remains by Simon Armitage

- Simon Armitage interviewed lots of soldiers for a documentary called The Not Dead– he then wrote poems about some of the stories they told him.
- This poem is the story of a soldier in conflict. He shoots a looter as a response to orders, but is unsure whether the man was armed or not.
- The poem tells us about the impact of the shooting on the soldier's life

Look at this word cloud based on PTSD. Think about what all these words mean:



1. Explain what you understand by the term PTSD.

2. Do you think soldiers should follow orders from their superiors no matter what? Explain your opinion.

Bayonet Charge by Ted Hughes

- Ted Hughes father was in WW1
- Ted Hughes wrote this poem many years after the war
- A bayonet was a knife or dagger attached to the end of a rifle. Soldiers had to run through the battlefield and they were instructed to direct the bayonet at the vulnerable points of the enemy's body: the throat, left or right breast and left or right groin.



Training



Actual warfare

Explain what you understand by the word PATRIOTIC:

Why do you think a soldier might struggle mentally with using this kind of weapon:

Kamikaze by Beatrice Garland

- In the Second World War Japanese aircraft flown by kamikaze pilots were loaded with explosives and made a deliberate suicidal crash on an enemy target.
- About 3,800 kamikaze pilots died during the war, and more than 7,000 naval personnel were killed by kamikaze attacks.
- The pilots saw it as a patriotic and honourable thing to do. The last letter home from a 23 year old kamikaze pilot said: "**March 31, 1945: I am pleased to have the honour of having been chosen,**" he wrote. "**But I cannot help crying when I think of you, Mom.**"



Read the information and look at the pictures. Write about this pilot– how is he feeling? What is he thinking?

Poppies: by Jane Weir

- This was written to show what it was like for a mother who had lost a son



Write as many words as you can associated with this:

1. Write as much as you know about Remembrance Day (sometimes called poppy day or Armistice Sunday).



As this soldier leaves for war– who is being brave here?

Give reasons for your answer

Carol Ann Duffy was good friends with a photographer who worked in journalism. In the poem she examines the life of a war photographer who takes pictures of conflict for British newspapers. Its narrator is a photographer and this poem is about how he deals with traumatic experiences during taking photographs.

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Ozymandias by Percy Bysshe Shelley

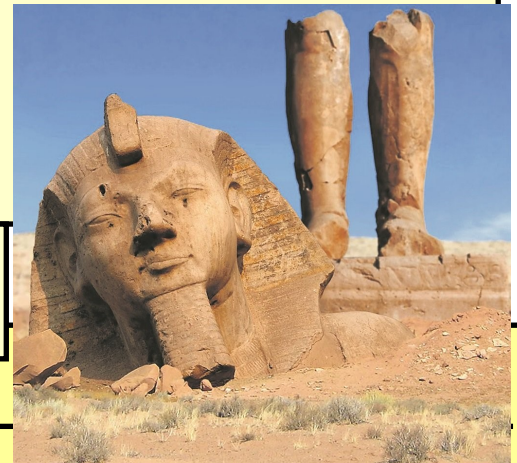
- Ozymandias is an alternative name for the Rameses II, an ancient Egyptian king
- The poem is about the remains of the statue in the desert.
- The weather has destroyed the statue.

This is the headline from The Daily Mail in March 2017.

Giant 3,000-year-old statue of Pharaoh Ramses II found buried in a Cairo slum is hailed as 'one of the most important discoveries ever'

Researchers from Egypt and Germany found the bust of the statue and the lower part of the head in a slum in Matariya.

Find out any information you can about Rameses II and the discovery of the statue



Storm on the Island by Seamus Heaney

Seamus Heaney wrote this poem to show how vulnerable humans are compared to nature.

What does **VULNERABLE** mean?

Find out what STORMONT is.



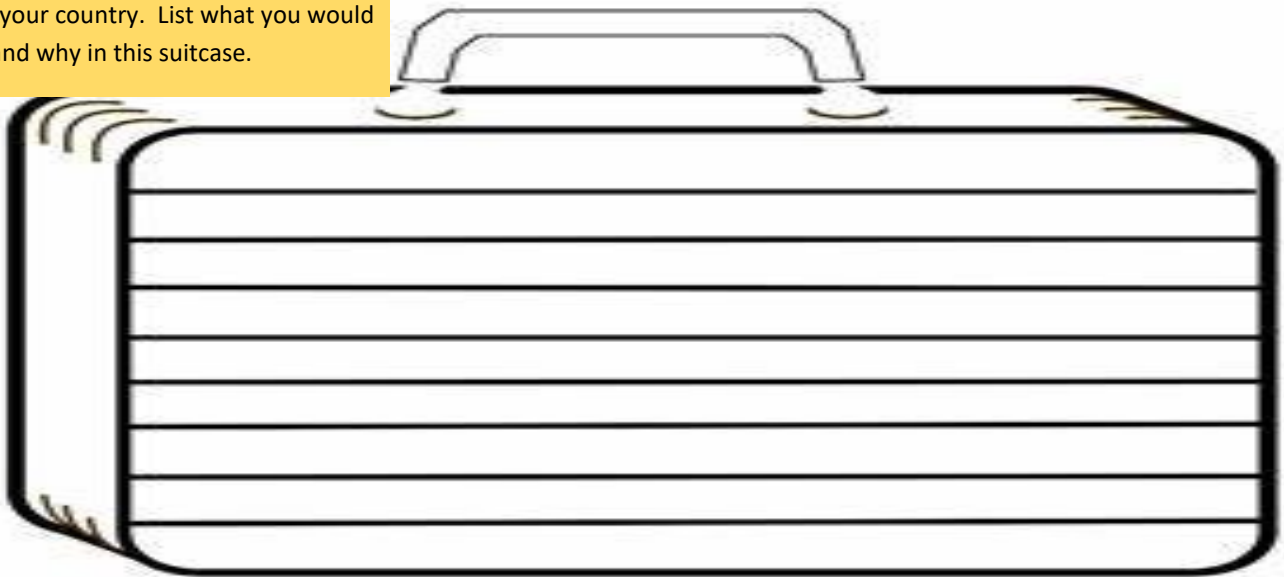
Write a description based on the images. Include onomatopoeia, a metaphor and a rule of three. Remember interesting and varied vocabulary.

The Emigreee by Carol Rumens

Emigrants are people who have left the country of their birth to settle elsewhere in the world. The spelling of the word Rumens chooses - émigrée - is a **feminine form** and suggests the speaker of the poem is a woman.

What is a TYRANT?

Imagine you suddenly had to pack to leave your country. List what you would take and why in this suitcase.

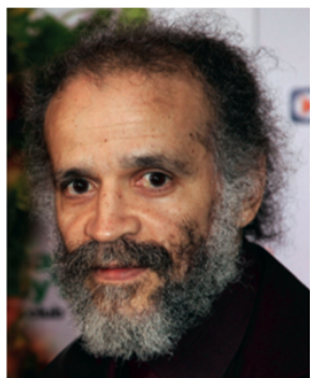


If someone left their country because of political conflict and ten years later they are telling someone about it– what kind of memories do you think they would describe?

Checkin' out My History by John Agard

If you can watch and listen to John Agard read his poem on youtube: youtube Checkin out me history

In the poem the speaker is a black man who is angry because he was only taught about white history and not black history whilst at school even though he was living in Guyana. He feels as if his own identity was kept from him



What do you understand by the word IDENTITY?



Mary Seacole



Florence Nightingale

Have you already heard of either these two women?

Find out some facts about each of them.

London by William Blake

What do you think of when you think of London?

William Blake disagreed with religion and authority

He thought people were under too much control

He did not like the fact that the church didn't help poor children or homeless people.



This is a picture William Blake did to illustrate his poem. What do you think it suggests about what he thought of London?

1. What are MANACLES?

2. Find out some facts about the Industrial Revolution
