

Year 9 Term 1: Conflict

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Conflict is an undeniable part of the human experience. Whether it be personal conflict, conflict between individuals or conflict on a global scale.

Many of the poems you will study this term deal with the perspectives of those involved in war and the effect this intense conflict has on them as individuals. Conflict may be inevitable in society, however many of these poets question whether war or violence should be.

War and poetry have always gone hand in hand. The first great work of poetry that has come down to us, *the Iliad*, is about nations in conflict. No war however, has produced a greater wealth of English poetry than the First World War.

Context

WWI began on **28 July 1914 and ended on 11 November 1918**. It was one of the deadliest conflicts in history; an estimated 9 million people were killed in combat, while over 5 million civilians died from military occupation, bombardment, hunger, and disease.

As a group, **war poets wrote poems which were often violent and realistic, challenging earlier poetry which largely glorified war**. The first-hand experience of war is maybe one reason why there is such a shift in the attitude of poets towards war.

The poets of WWI tend to question the reason for war, document the horrors of trench warfare and lament the mass death of their fellow soldiers.

• Themes

- Horror of war
- Patriotism
- Heroism
- Death
- Sacrifice
- Remembrance
- Nationhood
- Nature
- Loss
- Duty and honour
- Criticism of leadership
- Violence and brutality
- Evil
- Love
- Identity

WWI Letters

During the First World War, **letter writing was the main form of communication between soldiers and their loved ones**, helping to ease the pain of separation. Soldiers wrote letters in spare moments, sometimes from front line trenches or in the calmer surroundings behind the lines.

Censorship dictated what servicemen were permitted to disclose in their letters. However, in practice, men often found ways to impart information, and their letters offer a **powerful and highly personal insight into the experience of war**. Receiving letters from family and friends was also **vital to morale**.

Poems

Who's for the Game - Jessie Pope

A call-to-arms, a targeted address to young men with the aim of getting them to enlist in the British Army.

The Soldier - Rupert Brooke

Deeply patriotic and idealistic poem that expresses a soldier's love for his homeland—in this case England, which is portrayed as a kind of nurturing paradise.

In Flanders Fields - John McCrae

The poem describes the tragedy of the soldiers' deaths, as well as the ongoing natural beauty that surrounds their graves. It also addresses the question of the next generation's responsibility to carry on the soldiers' battle in war.

The General - Siegfried Sassoon

Sassoon critiques those in charge within this anti-war poem.

Attack - Siegfried Sassoon

The poem offers a bleak and unflinching look at the horrors of combat, making no attempt to mythologise its subject or create a sense of heroism. It describes the moment when soldiers, following the order to "attack," go over the trenches and into the line of enemy fire.

Anthem for Doomed Youth – Wilfred Owen

Written when Owen was in the hospital recovering from injuries and trauma resulting from his military service during World War I. The poem laments the loss of young life in war and describes the sensory horrors of combat. It takes particular issue with the official pomp and ceremony that surrounds war.

Dulce et Decorum Est - Wilfred Owen

He illustrates the brutal everyday struggle of a company of soldiers, focuses on the story of one soldier's agonizing death, and discusses the trauma that this event left behind.

The Falling Leaves – Margaret Postgate Cole

Cole, in her poem, highlights the mass loss of life due to war whilst still trying to honour those who fought.

Vultures - Chinua Achebe

The poem is an extended metaphor on the nature of evil. It portrays a picture of a concentration camp commander, but begins with an analogy; a description of a pair of vultures.

Belfast Confetti - Ciaran Carson

In the poem, an unnamed speaker appears to be caught up in a bomb blast and tries to escape. The poem then explores the relationship between violence and language itself.

Out of the Blue – Simon Armitage

Told from the point of view of an English trader working in the North Tower of the World Trade Centre on 9/11, it charts the conflict the speaker feels about jumping from the burning building.

Home – Warsan Shire

Warsan Shire's "Home," though never formally published in a collection of poetry, has reached millions of readers. The poem, which captures the pain and trauma of the refugee experience, is a response to the global refugee crises of the 21st century.

We Lived Happily During the War - Ilya Kaminsky

The poem explores how people can ignore suffering and injustice around them in order to protect their own comfort and happiness.

The Last Post - Carol Ann Duffy

It imagines what would happen if time ran backwards and those killed in the war came back to life; their lives would still be full of possibilities and filled with "love, work, children, talent, English beer, good food."

Recap Y7-8

Subject: Does the action in a sentence or clause

Noun types:

- **Concrete** – A noun we can see, hear, touch, smell or taste
- **Abstract** – A noun which we cannot experience with any of the 5 senses e.g. happiness, tension

Verb: a word used to describe an action or state.
E.g.
Action: The girl was jumping.
State: The girl knew the answers.

Main clause – A clause which makes sense on its own as a sentence

Subordinate clause – A clause which does not make sense on its own as a sentence – it needs a main clause to make it make sense – it starts with a subordinating conjunction.

Coordinating conjunction – A conjunction which joins 2 main clauses **FANBOYS** – for, and, nor, but, or, yet and so

Subordinating conjunction – A conjunction which joins a subordinate clause to a main one – e.g. while, as, because, since, if (**ISAWAWABUB**)

Pronouns: words that replace a noun. E.g. he, him, them, us, I

Adjectives: a word that describes a noun or pronoun: E.g. "big", "boring", "purple", and "obvious"

Adverbs: a word that describes or gives more information about a verb, adjective, adverb, or phrase. E.g. 'cheerfully', 'quickly', 'next week', 'extremely'

Writing Rules

Description:
PPOSSAM

- **Pathetic fallacy**
- **Paragraphs**
- **Onomatopoeia**
- **Senses**
- **Sentences**
- **Alliteration**
- **Metaphors & similes**

Letters:

- Addresses
- Date
- Greeting
- Paragraphs
- Sign off

Perfect Paragraph

- Answer sentence
- Embedded evidence
- Inferences
- Techniques (language, structure, form)
- Effect of techniques
- Reader response
- Writer's intention
- Context

Y9 Sentences & Grammar

- **Past participle start (-ed)**
Covered with the darkness of the forest itself, the bear seemed to carry the weight of the trees on its back.
- **Present participle start (-ing)**
Having no possibility of getting back to where I came from, the way ahead seemed suddenly less daunting.
- **Prepositional Push Off**
Beneath the thirty or forty feet of the trees' rise, the world seemed to have come to an end.
- **Lightning List**
*The forest gave me **silence, shade, secrets, solitude.***
- **Relentless Rhythm**
*I ran through the trees **and** over the roots **and** past the shadows **and** into the unknown.*
- ❖ **Asyndetic listing:** A list without conjunctions e.g. 'old, decaying, broken, scratched'
- ❖ **Polysyndetic listing:** A list using consistent conjunctions e.g. 'old and decaying and broken and scratched'
- ❖ **Prepositions:** A preposition is a word or group of words that is used to show direction, location, time, or to introduce an object.

Poetry Terms

Speaker/Persona: the character who tells the story in the poem
Stanza: a paragraph in a poem
Elegy: a form of poetry in which the speaker expresses grief, sadness, or loss
Sonnet: a 14 line poem written in iambic pentameter, rhyming couplet at the end
Assonance: repetition of vowel sounds within a tight group of words
Plosives: repetition of the p/b/g/d/m sound in words next to each other
Fricatives: repetition of the f/th sound in words next to each other
Sibilance: repetition of the S sound in words next to each other
Enjambment: a run on line in poetry
Caesura: punctuation in the middle of a line of poetry
Rhyme scheme: pattern of rhyme in a poem
Free verse: poem with no regular rhyme scheme
Extended metaphor: extends over the course of multiple lines, paragraphs, or stanzas
Imagery: visually descriptive or figurative language
Iambic pentameter: a line of verse with five metrical feet, each consisting of one short (or unstressed) syllable followed by one long (or stressed) syllable
Meter: the rhythm produced by the arrangement of syllables according to the number and type of beats in each line
Rhythm: the beat and pace of a poem