

Power and Conflict Poetry

What is each poem about?			
Remains	Remains is focused on a soldier haunted by a violent memory. Even when he has returned from war, he is unable to escape the horror of what he experiences.	Ozymandias	A traveller tells the poet that two huge stone legs stand in the desert. Near them on the sand lies a damaged stone head. The desert surrounds the statue.
London	The poem describes a journey around London, offering a glimpse of what the speaker sees as the terrible conditions faced by the inhabitants of the city.	Bayonet Charge	Focuses on a nameless soldier in the First World War. It describes the experience of 'going over-the-top' and the feelings attached to this. There is a transition from being a person to a figure of war.
Kamikaze	A kamikaze pilot who returns home and faces rejection. Explores the moment that the pilot's decision is made and sketches out the consequences for him over the rest of his life.	War Photographer	Describes the experience of being so close to war and the impact this has had. Compares life in a war zone to life back at home and shows the futile nature of war.
Poppies	Tells the 'story' of a mother's experience of pain and loss as her son leaves home to go to war. The poem shows how war can impact everyone.	Exposure	A company of soldiers suffers the bitter cold of a night at the front. The troops question why they are there and their purpose.
Tissue	Explores the varied uses of paper and how they relate to life itself. The speaker in this poem uses tissue paper as an extended metaphor for life.	Charge Of The Light Brigade	The poem tells the story of a brigade consisting of 600 soldiers who broke through enemy lines, lives were lost before they returned.
Checking Out Me History	Makes us look at the way history is taught, and at how we conceive our identity as we learn about cultural traditions and narratives.	Storm On The Island	The poem describes the experience of being in a cottage on an island off the coast of Ireland during a storm. They cannot do anything to help themselves.
The Prelude	This extract describes how Wordsworth went out in a boat on a lake at night. He was alone and a mountain peak loomed over him; its presence had a great effect.	My Last Duchess	The Duke shows a picture of his late wife and remarks on her character, suggesting that she was unfaithful to him - and hinting that he might have killed her because of it.
The Emigree	Shows the power that places can have. Recalls life in what is now a war zone but details how the speaker does have positive memories.	Remember, you will be asked to compare poems! You need to consider how these poems explore similar ideas.	

Key Quotations:

Remains – “probably armed, possibly not”, “I see every round as it rips through his life-“, “his bloody life in my bloody hands”

Ozymandias – “sneer of cold command”, “Look on my works, ye mighty, and despair!”, “Nothing beside remains”

London – “mark in every face I meet / Marks of weakness, marks of woe”, “chartered streets... where the chartered Thames does flow”, “mind forged manacles”

Bayonet Charge – “Suddenly he awoke and was running”, “Sweating like molten iron from the centre of his chest”, “he almost stopped”

Kamikaze – “though he came back my mother never spoke again”, “that this was no longer the father we loved”, “he must have wondered which had been the better way to die.”

War Photographer – “Spools of suffering set out in ordered rows”, “A half-formed ghost, “A hundred agonies in black and white”

Poppies – “I listened hoping to hear your playground voice catching on the wind”, “All my worlds/flattened, rolled, turned into felt”, “the world overflowing like a treasure chest”

Exposure – “merciless iced east winds that knife us”, “All their eyes are ice”, “Slowly our ghosts drag home”

Tissue – “Paper that lets the light shine through”, “might fly our lives like paper kites”, “well-used books”

Charge of the Light Brigade – “the valley of Death”, “Then they rode back, but not, Not the six hundred”, “Honour the Light Brigade”

Checking Out Me History – “Dem tell me/ what dem want to tell me”, “But now I checking out me own history”, “I carving out me identity”

Storm on the Island – “pummels your house too”, “spits like a tame cat turned savage”, “We are bombarded by the empty air.”

The Prelude – “A little boat tied to a willow tree”, “a huge peak, black and huge”, “a trouble to my dreams”

My Last Duchess – “That’s my last Duchess painted on the wall”, “My gift of a nine-hundred-years-old name”, “I gave commands; Then all similes stopped together”

The Emigree - “my memory of it is sunlight clear”, “it may be at war, it may be sick with tyrants”, “I have no passport, there’s no way back at all”

Example Q’s:

Compare the ways poets present ideas about conflict in War Photographer and in one other poem.
Compare the ways poets present the power of memory in My Last Duchess and in one other poem.

Comparison Connectives

Similarities: Also, similarly, in addition, likewise, in a similar way, equally...

Differences: However, on the other hand, in contrast, contrastingly, alternatively...

	Power of nature	Power of humans	Conflict	Loss and absence	Memory	Emotion - Anger	Emotion - Guilt	Emotion - Fear	Emotion - Pride	Identity	Individual experiences
Ozymandias											
London											
The Prelude											
My Last Duchess											
Charge of the Light Brigade											
Exposure											
Storm on the Island											
Bayonet Charge											
Remains											
Poppies											
War Photographer											
Tissue											
The Emigree											
Kamikaze											
Checking Out Me History											

Key Vocabulary:

Visage
 Sneer
 Colossal
 Boundless
 Wander
 Chartered
 Woe
 Forge
 Manacles
 Blight
 Covert
 Idly
 Cove
 Countenance
 Officious
 Warrant
 Brigade
 Blundered
 Dismayed
 Salient
 Wearied
 Drooping
 Wizen'd
 Squat
 Stooks
 Pummel
 Clods
 Looters



Language

Symbolism – A symbol represents a bigger idea.

Simile – Comparing using the words “as” or “like”.

Metaphor – Saying something is something else.

Personification – Giving an object human qualities.

Alliteration – Repetition of consonant sounds.

Assonance – Repetition of vowel sounds.

Onomatopoeia – A sound word.

Hyperbole – Exaggerating an idea.

Juxtaposition – A contrasting effect.

Semantic field – A set of words relating to the same topic or idea.

Structure

Rhyme – Repetition of sounds, usually at the end of lines.

Couplet – Two rhyming lines that follow on from one another.

Enjambment – A sentence that runs over the end of a line.

Caesura – A stop or pause in a line of poetry.

Stanza – A group of lines separated from others.

Volta – A turning point in the line of thought or argument in a poem.

Epigraph – A quotation from another text, included in a poem.

Sestet – A six line stanza.

Quatrain – A four line stanza.

Form

Sonnet – A 14 line poem, usually about love.

Dramatic monologue – A poem in which a speaker addresses the audience.

Elegy – About the death of its subject.

Lyric – An emotional, rhyming poem.

Ode – A poem to celebrate a person, place, or thing.

Parody – A comic imitation of another writer's work.

Blank Verse – Non-rhyming poetry with 10 syllable lines.

Free Verse – Follows the patterns of speech.