

Poem	Summary	Main Themes	Language/Form/Structure	Intention	3 Key Quotes
Remains	A soldier at battle with his conscience after killing perhaps an unarmed looter whilst on duty abroad.	PTSD Guilt	First person Colloquial language to emphasise desensitization to death Told as a story Enjambment used to show he cannot forget and the memories are relentless	Armitage raises awareness of the struggle soldiers encounter even when back from war and the lack of support they receive. Perhaps Armitage is commenting on the lack of autonomy given to soldiers and the issues that robotic training can cause.	“On another occasion, we get sent out” “I see every round as it rips through his life” “his bloody life in my bloody hands”
War Photographer	A war photographer struggles to forget the horror of war they witnessed whilst on duty abroad.	Guilt Anger	First person Religious metaphor Haunting imagery	Duffy highlights how civilians are not as affected as they should be by the images of war. Perhaps Duffy is also criticising the British media for reporting on such events, but doing nothing to stop them. Duffy also criticising the limited view we have of war ‘pick out five or six’.	“In his dark room he is finally alone” “of running children in a nightmare heat.” “he earns his living and they do not care”
Bayonet Charge	A nervous soldier ‘goes over the top’ and runs towards enemy fire. He seems to stop to question his reason for doing so but eventually succumbs to battle to survive.	Fear Patriotism Brutality	Third person 3 stanzas each with a different tone Enjambment – pace is important, when running it is quick and when thinking it is slow In media res beginning to jump straight into the action	Hughes is highlighting the brutality of war and is perhaps critical of how this process transforms a soldier from a living thinking person into a dangerous weapon of war.	“Suddenly he awoke and was running” “King, honour, human dignity etcetera, dropped like luxuries” “His terror’s touchy dynamite”
Charge of the Light Brigade	A regiment of 600 soldiers in the British cavalry are wrongly sent into battle with Russian cannons.	Bravery Patriotism	Metaphors show the horror of war ‘valley of death’ ‘jaws of hell’ Adjectives depict the heroism of these men ‘noble’ Imperative verb ‘honour’ directs the reader to remember the fallen with respect	Tennyson highlights and celebrates the heroism of our soldiers and the need for remembrance (he was commissioned to write the poem). Perhaps a propaganda piece of writing, or a criticism of the poor leadership of the army.	“Half a league, half a league,” “Jaws of death” “Noble six hundred”
Kamikaze	A Japanese soldier turns around from his suicide mission and is rejected by his family once home.	Honour Loss	Changes speaker from narrator to daughter, who is passing the story on to her children. Narrative Natural imagery to show the beauty of life Metaphor ‘a tuna, the dark prince’ to show the pilot is dangerous	Garland's poem reflects the immense social pressure brought to bear on the pilots to carry out kamikaze missions as part of Japan's war effort during World War Two. The poem perhaps prompts us to, think about the consequences of suicide missions for families in the modern world as well as in past conflicts.	“Her father embarked at sunrise” “strung out like bunting” “which had been the better way to die.”
Poppies	A mother reflects on her son leaving for war and recounts her memories of him as a child. It is ambiguous as to whether her son has died whilst at war or has yet to return.	Memory Loss Childhood	First person monologue Maternal language/domestic imagery used to show home and safety, contrasted with violence to enhance the mother’s conflicting emotions.	Weir’s poem highlights the conflict that war brings to those left at home waiting for news of their loved one’s safety. The reader needs to feel empathy for the mother over her changed relationship with her son and the turmoil she now feels.	“Three days before Armistice Sunday” “released a song bird from its cage” “your playground voice catching on the wind”
The Emigree	A persona explores their memory of a far off city they spent time in as a child.	Memory Loss Childhood	Repetition of elements such as ‘sunlight’ No consistent structure or rhyme, to perhaps reflect the uncertain understanding of the persona about her city. First person Metaphors; memories include ‘the bright, filled paperweight’; the city’s brutal tyrant rulers are a sickness. Perhaps the whole city is an extended metaphor, a symbol of the lost childhood to which no adult can return.	Rumens wants her poem to be relevant to as many people who have left their homelands as possible by intentionally not stating the city’s name or country.	“There once was a country... I left it as a child” “but I can’t get it off my tongue. It tastes of sunlight” “and my shadow falls as evidence of sunlight”
London	The persona (most likely Blake) is walking the streets of London, commenting on the misery and poverty that he sees.	Abuse of power Lack of power Anger	Regular rhyme in strict quatrains to reflect the rigid conditions the people of London are living in. Repetition to emphasise the misery Senses Metaphor ‘mind-forged manacles’ to reflect the oppression of those in poverty	As a romantic poet, Blake shows how man is worth more than slavery, and challenges the establishments’ way of running things in Victorian London. He fought against oppressive institutions (like the Church and Monarchy) and thought people should have freedom of thought and imagination.	“I wander through each chartered street” “The mind-forged manacles I hear” “And blights with plagues the Marriage hearse.”

Checking out Me History	Agard is explaining to the readers his lack of education on his Black-Caribbean heritage. He talks of famous 'Western' figures and then questions why he wasn't told of the Black-Caribbean equivalents.	Lack of power Anger	Dramatic monologue Creole language used alongside non-standard phonetic spelling to show his accent Black history is separated to stress its importance - in italics The lack of punctuation, the stanzas in free verse, the irregular rhyme scheme represent the narrator's rejection of the irrelevant Western culture he's been forced to learn Metaphor 'bandage up me eye' to show he's been blinded to his own identity	Agard is conveying the importance of identity and knowing one's cultural history, despite a system that denies appropriate education. He is against the euro-centric view of history that is imposed upon other cultures.	"Dem tell me" "Bandage up me eye" "I carving out me identity"
My Last Duchess	The persona talks to an envoy about his past wife. He has her painting on the wall which he discusses whilst arranging his new marriage.	Control Abuse of power Pride & Arrogance	Dramatic monologue – demonstrates his arrogance and dominance Consistent iambic pentameter – implies his confidence and status Rigid structure – again, perhaps reflecting the speaker's desire for control	Browning's poem is an allegory representing misuse of power. Browning was also a 'liberal' in terms of the era in which he lived, and he had sympathy for women and their lack of self-determination in a patriarchal society (he himself ran away to marry his wife because of her controlling father). The Duchess in this poem is the ultimate abused victim. Societal constraints meant that many lived sexually repressed, limited lives. Browning's dramatic monologue tells tales of violence, madness and murder which met an inner need for drama and excitement of the public.	"That's my last Duchess painted on the wall" "I gave commands; Then all smiles stopped together" "Which Claus of Innsbruck cast in bronze for me!"
Ozymandias	The persona tells a story that a traveller told him: of a statue in the desert, left broken and wrecked of an ancient ruler.	Power Time Pride & Arrogance	Sonnet form – conveys Shelley's love of fallen power Narrative Irregular rhyme, perhaps symbolic of the broken statue Irony - temporary power Aggressive language to show the tyranny of the ruler	Shelley uses an allegory poem to show how power fades into nothing. Perhaps he is critiquing mankind's unnecessary attempts at holding onto power. As a romantic poet, he believed in the ever-lasting power of nature over mankind.	"I met a traveller from an antique land" "sneer of cold command" "The lone and level sands stretch far away."
Tissue	The persona explores the varied uses of paper and how they relate to life.	Time Power Instability	Unrhymed, irregular quatrains. This form can be seen to represent the irregularity of life and the flimsy nature of the tissue paper the poem refers to. The final stanza, is one line in length. Separating out this line emphasises the connection between paper and skin, showing the significance of human life. An extended metaphor for human skin and life.	Dharker may be suggesting that the significance of human life will outlast the records we make of it on paper or in buildings. There is also a sense of the fragility of human life, and the fact that not everything can last. Dharker is critical of how human life is controlled by something as insignificant as 'tissue' but we give it such power through records and money etc.	"Paper that lets the light shine through" "pages smoothed and stroked and turned" "turned into your skin"
The Prelude	The persona steals a boat and goes for a punt along the lake. The persona takes note of the beauty of nature, until they are disrupted by an intimidating mountain. Overcome with the power of nature, the persona quickly returns the boat and leaves troubled.	Nature vs Man Fear Solitude	First person narrative Volta to change the tone from wonder and beauty to intimidation and fear Contrasts — a small boat and huge mountain peaks; a solitary man and the massive power of nature; the comfort of familiar surroundings and the sinister and disturbing effect of overwhelming natural phenomena.	Wordsworth was a Romantic Poet and would often focus on nature and man's insignificance in comparison to the natural world. He was also a Pantheist: he believed that God was manifested in the natural world. Perhaps Wordsworth is commenting on the inferiority of humans in the presence of powers not understood. The mountain could also be symbolic of the Industrial Revolution and the concerns Wordsworth had over man destroying nature.	"One summer evening (led by her) I found" "A huge peak, black and huge" "By day, and were a trouble to my dreams"
Storm on the Island	A community prepares for an oncoming storm, confident at first and then less so as the storm hits.	Nature vs Man Fear	Narrative Free verse and present tense = immediacy Violent imagery There is a progression from security and confidence at the beginning to fear and uncertainty at the end. Perhaps an extended metaphor for the troubles in Northern Ireland Forceful sounds 'blast'	Heaney is depicting the helplessness of man against the power of nature. Perhaps he is also referring to the troubles in Northern Ireland and how the situation is not improving.	"We are prepared: we build our houses squat" "Spits like a tame cat turned savage" "Strange, it is a huge nothing that we fear."
Exposure	Soldiers are sat waiting in the trenches for their part of the war to take place. Whilst waiting, they recount how it is nature that is their enemy.	Nature vs Man Brutality Fear Hopelessness	Pronouns 'our' and 'we' show collective misery. By repeating the phrase 'But nothing happens', the poem emphasises the agony of waiting and that war is not all about action. Half rhyme = unsettling Harsh consonant sounds Personification of weather	Owen experience first-hand the horrors of war and has a sense of injustice about the way the soldiers are being treated. Owen has set out to expose the conditions the soldiers have experienced to the world. His tone is deliberately provoking and emotive language is used with the intention of involving and even upsetting the reader.	"in the merciless iced east winds that knife us..." "Slowly, our ghosts drag home" "But nothing happens"

