

Power and Conflict Poetry Knowledge Organiser

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	Themes	Summary	Context	Structure	Key Quotations
Ozymandias	Power of humans is ephemeral	Persona meets a traveller from “an ancient land” and he describes an old, fragmented statue in the middle of the desert. The statue of the terrible, oppressive tyrant is now broken and destroyed. “Nothing beside remains” as his legacy has faded with time.	Written in 1818 by Percy Shelley. Ozymandias is a Greek name for pharaoh Rameses II. As a ‘Romantic’ poet against authority, Shelley wrote this as a subtle criticism of oppression.	Written as a sonnet (usually a love poem) and in iambic pentameter. The rhyme scheme is irregular to reflect the changing nature of power.	“shattered visage”, “frown and wrinkled lip”, “sneer of cold command”, “hand that mocked them”, “My name is Ozymandias, king of kings”, “colossal wreck”
London	Abuse of power by institutions	The persona wanders the underbelly of London to find a place where freedom is restricted and poverty is rife. There is a subtle criticism of both the church and monarchy and the oppression, exploitation and suffering of the poor is emphasised.	Blake was a Romantic poet and was fiercely critical of government. Found in Blake's "Songs of Experience" (1794) and set when poverty was rife, a rigid class system was in place, and child labour commonplace. The Industrial Revolution was booming which led to lots of class divisions in society.	Tight, organised structure of four quatrains. Clear, regular rhyme scheme to reflect the order and control imposed upon the poor.	"chartered streets", "In every", "Marks of weakness, marks of woe", "Mind-forged manacles", "hapless Soldiers sigh" "youthful Harlots curse"
Prelude	Power of nature/the sublime	A young, confident Wordsworth steals a boat and rows into the middle of the lake in Ullswater only to quiver at the sight of the mountains. The poem details Wordsworth’s spiritual growth and dominance of nature.	Wordsworth was in awe of the sublime and believed nature should be revered. Wordsworth was a Romantic poet like Shelley, and spent lots of time walking the mountains (a place which he revered but also feared, as his father nearly lost his life whilst hiking)	Extract from an Epic poem. 44 lines of blank verse, in iambic pentameter. Auto-biographical. First person narrative.	“troubled pleasure”, “a huge peak, black and huge”, “up reared its head”, “with purpose of its own”, “like a living thing strode after me”, “in a grave and serious ”
My Last Duchess	Abuse of power	The Duke (persona) points out a portrait of his "last duchess" to a visitor. The Duke was angered by her supposedly flirtatious behaviour which made him jealous. He inadvertently reveals he took steps to have her murdered.	Browning famous for dramatic monologue form; Browning sets his poem in 16 th century Italy adopting the Duke of Ferrara (a real historical figure) for his persona. There was a strong suspicion Ferrara poisoned his young wife.	Written as a dramatic monologue, entirely composed of rhyming couplets. Enjambment conceals the rhyme and the use of iambic pentameter. Unreliable narrator.	"The curtain I have drawn for you", "my gift of a nine-hundred-years-old name", "I gave commands, Then all smiles stopped together", "I choose never to stoop", "my object", "Notice Neptune though, taming a sea-horse"
COTL	Reality of war	The “noble six hundred” soldiers receive an ill-informed order but proceed with an attack into the “valley of death” where many lose their lives. Some soldiers return and are described as valiant heroes.	Tennyson was moved by an article in the Times recalling the events of the Battle of Balaclava in the Crimean War where soldiers were given an unclear order which sent them directly into the line of Russian fire. Tennyson acknowledges the failure of their leading officer Lord Raglan.	Composed of six ordered stanzas reflecting the orders of war. Includes dialogue, heavy use of anaphora, stanzas 3 and 5 mirror one another - mirrors the soldiers' retreat.	"valley of death", "was there a man dismayed?", "boldly", "jaws of death...mouth of hell", "horse and hero fell", "When can their glory fade?", "Honour", "Noble six hundred"
Exposure	Reality of war Power of nature	A group of British soldiers are in the trenches fighting two wars: one against the Germans and the other against the bitter weather. Owen highlights the extreme and harsh reality of life in the trenches.	Written from Owen’s point of view in trenches in Winter 1917. Owen was critical of war (inspired by Sassoon), he felt it his duty to ‘expose’ the harsh reality or conflict. Owen died during warfare.	Cyclical structure, heavy use of ellipses, caesura and repetition to convey the perpetual nature of conflict.	"merciless iced east winds that knife us", "Dawn massing in the east her melancholy army", "sudden successive flights of bullets.", "Is it that we are dying?", "For love of God seems dying"
Storm on the Island	Power of nature	The poem describes the extreme force of nature and the impact that the elements have on island life. The island's occupants adapt to the demands nature places on their homes and jobs.	Heaney grew up in a farming community as a staunch Catholic. Irish Troubles (1968-1998) provide the political landscape for the poem suggesting the storm could be metaphorical for the issues facing Ireland (the island). STORMONT > Name of Irish parliament.	Written in blank verse (unrhymed iambic pentameter), conversational tone, heavy use of enjambment	"pummels your house", "wind dives and strafes", "We are bombarded by the empty air", "it is a huge nothing that we fear"
Bayonet Charge	Reality of war	The poet emphasises the soldier's terror, shock and confusion at the horrific scenes unfolding. Much of the poem's imagery centres on the destruction of a natural scene and sees the soldier question his purpose in war.	Published in 1957, Hughes had never been on front line but his father survived the battle of Gallipoli in WW1. Inspired by Owen thus showing how Hughes used the experiences of others— is this why there is a third person narrator?	Largely blank verse with no set structure. Begins in media res - reflects the urgency of conflict	"Suddenly he awoke and was running", "raw", "bullets smacking the belly out of the air", "patriotic tear", " "King, honour, human dignity, etcetera dropped like luxuries"

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Remains	Power of memory	1 st half of poem: Soldier recounts a memory in which he and "somebody else and somebody else" kill a looter whilst on a mission. 2 nd half of poem: he explains how the memory of the scene still haunts him and an indication he is suffering from PTSD.	"These are the poems of survivors - the damaged, exhausted men who return from war in body but never, wholly, in mind". Written to coincide with a TV documentary entitled 'The Not Dead'. Story of Guardsman Tromans who fought in Iraq in 2003.	Written as a first-person monologue giving the poem an intimate feel. Colloquial language used. Heavy use of enjambment and caesura emphasise the natural speech pattern of the speaker.	"probably armed, possible not", "I see every round as it rips through his life", "tosses his guts back into his body", "end of story except not really", "blood-shadow", "drink and drugs won't flush him out", "his bloody life in my bloody hands"
Poppies	Power of memory	This poem describes the nature of grief as a mother talks directly to her son (who has left for war) and details how she is struggling to cope without him. The poem demonstrates the inner emotion of the persona who is trying to appear calm whilst breaking inside.	Set around the time of the Iraq and Afghan wars but the conflict is deliberately ambiguous to give the poem a timeless relevance to all mothers and families. Jane Weir also a textile designer hence references to sewing and was inspired by the letters written between Wilfred and Susan Owen.	Written as a monologue from a mother's point of view using the free verse form; poem uses lots of enjambment and domestic imagery to enhance the natural tone of the poem.	"disrupting a blockade", "I was brave", "the world overflowing like a treasure chest", "released a songbird from its cage", "a single dove flew from the pear tree", "I listened hoping to hear your playground voice"
War Photographer	Reality of conflict Power of memory	A war photographer "in his darkroom" develops his photographs. As the "solutions slop in trays" he is filled with horror at the memories of the violent scenes he has photographed. We see how he is angered that people (and the media) fail to act upon the reality of conflict shown.	Duffy was inspired by her friendships with two war photographers (Don McCullin and Jones Griffiths) and wanted to explore the effects on those whose duty it was to photograph the unthinkable. Are those who photograph war immoral or doing their duty?	A regular, organised poem of four stanzas with each stanza ending in a rhyming couplet - suggests that the photographer is trying to "order" what he is seeing.	"spools of suffering set out in ordered rows", "a hundred agonies in black and white", "between the bath and pre-lunch beers", "like a priest"
Tissue	Power of paper Fragility of human life	The poem uses an extended metaphor of paper for life. The poet considers how paper can "alter things" and how it is connected to (and perhaps controls) important aspects of our life. The poet suggests that the significance of human life will outlast the records we make of it on paper	Her poems look at issues such as religion, terrorism and global politics. In the poem, Dharker makes references to the Koran, buildings, maps and grocery slips all of which are symbolic of wider issues such as religion, business, borders, poverty and starvation.	Free verse monologue, some internal rhyme used (but still no real pattern). Enjambment used to establish a calming, conversational tone.	"see how easily they fall away on a sigh", "Maps too. The sun shines through", "trace a grand design with living tissue"
The Emigrée	Power of memory	The persona is an adult living in exile looking back at the city of their childhood. Despite their understanding it may be "sick with tyrants", the speaker grapples to alter her vision of her city as it is "branded by an impression of sunlight".	Published in 1993 but Rumens herself was not a refugee. The home country of the speaker is not revealed thus allowing the poem to transcend time. Increasingly relevant in 21 st century world of migration.	Three regular stanzas each containing the motif of "sunlight". The use of free verse could emulate the uncertainty in the persona's life	"There once was a country...", "I am told", "sunlight", "sick with tyrants", "that city", "I carried here like a hollow doll", "my city comes to me", "they accuse me of absence"
COMH	Power of identity Abuse of power	The speaker describes how his identity was shaped by his colonised schooling. He describes the British History he was taught at school but reveals he was never taught of his Caribbean roots.	Agard was born in British Guiana (a British colony) in 1949, moving to the UK in the 1970s. His poetry challenges racism and prejudice and he sought to educate people about the Creole culture.	Written in free verse, total lack of structure. Italics mark out the 'two' poems here. The use of enjambment allows the poem to emulate the Creole accent and rhythm.	dem tell me", "and all dat", "bandage up me eye with my own history", "blind me to me own identity", "I carving out me identity"
Kamikaze	Internal conflict Power of memory	Testimony of the daughter of a Kamikaze pilot who describes her father embarking on his mission only to turn back and return. The poem explores vividly the moment the pilot changes his mind ("boats...like bunting") and the ostracising consequences his decision has for him.	Kamikaze pilots were a last military effort by Japan to defeat the allies in the final stages of WWII. Kamikaze pilots were suicide bombers who believed their sacrifice would bring them eternal glory as they would be worshiped at the Yasukuni shrine. Cowardice was viewed as the greatest form of dishonesty.	Italics show change in narrative voice, written in the free verse form (lack of structure emulating the lack of structure in pilot's life/lack of decisions and control), enjambment used	"one-way journey into history", "little fishing boats strung out like bunting", "my mother never spoke again in his presence", "they treated him as though he no longer existed", "he must have wondered which had been the better way to die"