

Literature Paper 2: Section B		Power and Conflict Anthology Poetry	
1. ‘Ozymandias’	2. ‘London’	3. ‘The Prelude’	4. ‘My Last Duchess’
<p>Poet: Percy Shelley</p> <p>Summary: a ruined statue in the desert shows how human power and pride crumble with time.</p> <p>AO3 Link: written during a period of interest in ancient empires, the poem reflects Romantic ideas about the collapse of tyrannical power.</p> <p>Key Quotations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “That colossal wreck, boundless and bare” “sneer of cold command” “My name is Ozymandias, king of kings” 	<p>Poet: William Blake</p> <p>Summary: the speaker walks through London and sees how poverty, oppression and misery are caused by powerful institutions.</p> <p>AO3 Link: set during the Industrial Revolution, it criticises the suffering caused by poverty, inequality and corrupt institutions.</p> <p>Key Quotations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “mind-forged manacles I hear” “”Every blackening church appalls“ “and mark in every face I meet, marks of weakness, marks of woe” 	<p>Poet: William Wordsworth</p> <p>Summary: a boy’s stolen boat ride turns terrifying, revealing nature’s overwhelming power and his loss of youthful innocence.</p> <p>AO3 Link: Wordsworth writes from a Romantic perspective, celebrating nature’s power and its ability to shape human identity.</p> <p>Key Quotations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “One summer evening (led by her)” “A huge peak, black and huge” “My boat went heaving through the water like a swan” 	<p>Poet: Robert Browning</p> <p>Summary: A controlling Duke reveals his abusive power as he boasts about silencing his wife permanently.</p> <p>AO3 Link: Browning uses a Renaissance Italian Duke to expose Victorian anxieties about male dominance and control.</p> <p>Key Quotations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “That’s my last Duchess painted on the wall” “I gave commands; then all smiles stopped” “My gift of a nine-hundred-years-old name”
5. ‘The Charge of the Light Brigade’	6. ‘Exposure ‘	7. ‘Storm on the Island’	8. ‘Bayonet Charge’
<p>Poet: Alfred Lord Tennyson</p> <p>Summary: soldiers ride bravely into certain death because of a military mistake, showing honour in the face of futile conflict.</p> <p>AO3 Link: based on a real Crimean War disaster, the poem honours soldiers while subtly criticising military leadership.</p> <p>Key Quotations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Cannon to right of them, / Cannon to left of them, / Cannon in front of them” “Into the jaws of Death, / Into the mouth of hell” “When can their glory fade?” 	<p>Poet: Wilfred Owen</p> <p>Summary: soldiers suffer more from the relentless, deadly cold than from the enemy, exposing the cruelty and pointlessness of war.</p> <p>AO3 Link: Owen draws on his own WWI trench experience to reveal the brutal reality of war and the soldiers’ suffering.</p> <p>Key Quotations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ”The merciless iced east winds that knife us” “Sudden successive flights of bullets streak the silence” “But nothing happens” 	<p>Poet: Seamus Heaney</p> <p>Summary: a community faces a violent storm, discovering that nature’s power is unpredictable and unstoppable.</p> <p>AO3 Link: Heaney hints at the political tensions in Northern Ireland while exploring the destructive force of nature.</p> <p>Key Quotations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Spits like a tame cat turned savage” ”Exploding comfortably down on the cliffs” “We are bombarded by the empty air” 	<p>Poet: Ted Hughes</p> <p>Summary: a soldier sprints across a battlefield in panic, showing how fear strips war of any sense of glory.</p> <p>AO3 Link: Hughes reflects on the dehumanising panic of soldiers in battle, influenced by both WWI history and his father’s experiences.</p> <p>Key Quotations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Suddenly he awoke and was running” "bullets smacking the belly out of the air“ "King, honour, human dignity, etcetera / Dropped like luxuries in a yelling alarm"

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9. ‘Remains’	10. ‘Poppies’	11. ‘War Photographer’	12. ‘Tissue’
<p>Poet: Simon Armitage</p> <p>Summary: a soldier is haunted by a killing he took part in, revealing the lasting psychological conflict caused by war.</p> <p>AO3 Link: Armitage draws on interviews with real soldiers from modern conflicts like Iraq to show the lasting trauma of war.</p> <p>Key Quotations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “probably armed, possibly not” "his bloody life in my bloody hands" "and the drink and drugs won’t flush him out" 	<p>Poet: Jane Weir</p> <p>Summary: a mother remembers her son leaving for war, expressing grief, love and the emotional cost of conflict.</p> <p>AO3 Link: Weir writes from a mother’s perspective during the Afghanistan conflict, exploring the emotional cost of remembrance.</p> <p>Key Quotations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “released a songbird from its cage” ”The world overflowing like a treasure chest” “I listened, hoping to hear your playground voice catching on the wind” 	<p>Poet: Carol Ann Duffy</p> <p>Summary: a photographer processes images of suffering, questioning society’s indifference to distant wars.</p> <p>AO3 Link: Duffy highlights the moral burden on photographers who document global wars that distant audiences often ignore.</p> <p>Key Quotations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “spools of suffering set out in ordered rows" “A hundred agonies in black-and-white” "The readers’ eyeballs prick with tears between the bath and pre-lunch beers" 	<p>Poet: Imtiaz Dharker</p> <p>Summary: the poet suggests that human power is fragile and temporary, like paper, and that we should live more gently.</p> <p>AO3 Link: Dharker uses global, multicultural influences to question human power and emphasise the fragility of human structures.</p> <p>Key Quotations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “paper that lets the light shine through, this is what could alter things” “paper smoothed and stroked, and thinned to be transparent” “might fly our lives like paper kites”
13. ‘The Emigree’	14. ‘Kamikaze’	15. ‘Checking out me History’	16. Themes
<p>Poet: Carol Rumens</p> <p>Summary: a woman remembers her childhood city with love, even though conflict has changed it forever.</p> <p>AO3 Link: Rumens imagines the voice of someone forced to flee a politically unstable homeland, reflecting themes of exile and memory.</p> <p>Key Quotations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “my memory of it is sunlight clear” “It may be sick with tyrants” “that child’s vocabulary I carried here like a hollow doll” 	<p>Poet: Beatrice Garland</p> <p>Summary: a pilot turns back from a suicide mission, but his family’s rejection becomes a deeper punishment than death.</p> <p>AO3 Link: Garland explores the cultural pressures on Japanese pilots in WWII and the shame associated with refusing a suicide mission.</p> <p>Key Quotations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “a shaven head full of incantations” “strung out like bunting on a deep green-blue translucent sea” “we too learned to be silent” 	<p>Poet: John Agard</p> <p>Summary: the speaker challenges the power of colonial education and celebrates the importance of knowing one’s true heritage</p> <p>AO3 Link: Agard challenges the legacy of colonial education that erased Black history and celebrated only white British figures.</p> <p>Key Quotations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Dem tell me what dem want to tell me” “Bandage up me eye with me own history, / blind me to me own identity” “I carving out me identity” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power of nature: nature is uncontrollable and more powerful than humans • Abuse of power: people misuse power to control, oppress, or harm others • War and its effects: the reality of war and its physical/mental impact • Inner conflict: struggles within individuals (fear, guilt, divided loyalties) • Power of memory: memories shape identity and can haunt or influence actions • Identity: how people understand themselves (linked to culture, place, experience)