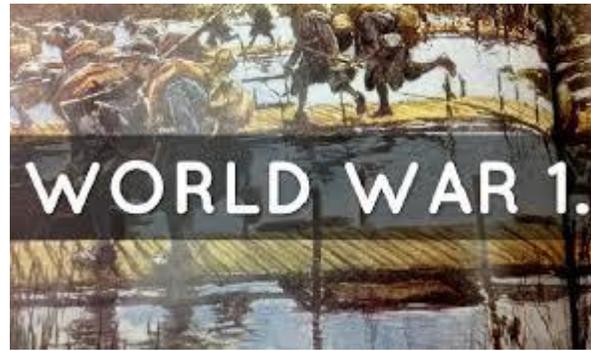


Poem Summaries

Jessie Pope – Who’s for the Game?	A pro war poem that conveys positive attitudes towards war by comparing it to a sporting game.
Edna St Vincent Mally – Conscientious Objector	The persona of the poem is anti-war; they refuse to help “Death” in his efforts to kill people.
John McCrae – In Flanders Field	Speaker portrays his feelings about the death of a fellow soldier friend.
Wilfred Owen – Dulce Et Decorum Est	Depicts the helplessness of soldiers caught in a gas attack.
Rupert Brooke – The Soldier	Reflects the proud English spirit that led to many men enlisting in the early stages of conflict in WW1.
Ivor Gurney – The Target	The poem is concentrated around the battlefield and the traumatizing choices one must make while representing their country.
Wilfred Owen – Mental Cases	Reflects upon the horrific consequences of war; describes war-torn men suffering from shell shock.
Siegfried Sassoon – Suicide in the Trenches	A poem which criticises the loneliness, health conditions, patriotism and lack of resources soldiers face whilst in the trenches.
Wilfred Owen – Anthem for Doomed Youth	A poem about the waste of many young men in WW1. The poem as a whole is about how to conduct the funeral of a soldier who has died in battle.
Wilfred Gibson – Air Raid	Describes the fear and terror of an air raid attack, focusing on the thoughts and feelings of a family.
Siegfried Sassoon – Attack	Conveys the harshness and realism of war, particularly insightful as Sassoon fought on the front line himself.
Wilfred Owen – Arms and the Boy	About a young, inexperienced soldier. However, the boy isn’t made for war.
Gilbert Frankau – The Deserter	Recounts the last moments of a soldier who is killed for “deserting” or abandoning during the war.
May Wedderburn Cannan – August 1914	An unnamed girl prays for the safety of a soldier at war; shows the inevitability of death in the war.
Sir Henry Newbolt – Vitai Lampada	In the panic of battle, a soldier is stirred to heroic action by his school boy memories.
Jessie Pope – The Call	The poem levels accusations of cowardice against those who choose not to enlist. Enlistment is praised which was not uncommon at the beginning of the war.



Context



World War 1 began on July 28, 1914. The conflict lasted four years, three months, ending in 1918.

There were two sides in the war. The Triple Ententes (also known as The Allies) were Britain, France, Ireland and Russia. The Central Powers were Germany and Austria-Hungary.

World War 1 has many different names. It was called The Great War, the World War, the War to End all Wars, World War 1, WW1, the War of the Nations and more.

America joined World War I on April 6, 1917.

Over 8 million soldiers died in World War 1, and another 21 million injured. A staggering 65 million soldiers were mobilized during the war.

The armistice on November 11, 1918 ended the fighting, but it took another six months to negotiate peace before the *Treaty of Versailles* could be prepared.

Key Definitions

Language: the writer’s choice of words and phrases and their impact. When analysing poetry consider the effect of specific words.

Form: Some poems adopt specific forms/type of text e.g. sonnets or narrative poems

Structure: the arrangement of a poem. When analysing poetry this could include repetition, punctuation, line/stanza length or the number and order of stanzas

Context: the circumstances that form the setting for an event, statement, or idea. The background.



Subject terminology:

Imagery – visually descriptive or figurative language, especially in a literary work. It helps you to imagine what is being described.

Analyse - Examine something methodically and in detail, typically in order to explain and interpret it.

Technique - A way of carrying out a particular task. Language devices are techniques which allow the writer to convey meaning (e.g. metaphors).

Inference - an interpretation which goes beyond the literal information given.

Deduction - an understanding based on the evidence.

Personification - the attribution of a personal nature or human characteristics to something non-human.

Rhythm - The beat and movement of language (rise and fall, repetition and variation, change of pitch, mix of syllables, melody of words).

Rhyme - Words that sound alike, especially words that end in the same sound.

Stanza - Group of lines in a poem that make up a single unit; like a paragraph in prose.

Free verse - poetry that does not rhyme or have a regular rhythm.

Alliteration – Close repetition of consonant sounds, especially initial consonant sounds.

Assonance – Close repetition of vowel sounds.

Refrain - A repeated line within a poem, similar to the chorus of a song.