

<p>Ozymandius - Percy Shelley</p> <p>Written in 1817 Shelley was part of the Romantic Movement which influenced art and literature in the 1700/1800s focussing on nature, the power of the individual and emotion.</p> <p>He was expelled from university for writing about atheism (not believing in God) which led to him to fall out with his father who disinherited him.</p> <p>The French Revolution was the revolutionary movement that shook France between 1787 and 1799 and reached its first climax there in 1789.</p> <p>Ozymandius is the Greek name for the Egyptian Pharaoh Ramesses II thus leading people to believe he is the inspiration for the poem.</p> <p>Shelley disliked absolute power, monarchies and the oppression of ordinary people.</p> <p>Shelley was well known as a 'radical' during his lifetime.</p> <p><i>Hubris Irony Volta Polyphonic Antiquity</i></p> <p>‘I met a traveller from an antique land’ ‘a shattered visage’ ‘sneer of cold command’ ‘its sculptor well those passions read Which yet survive’ ‘My name is Ozymandius, king of kings, Look on my works, ye Mighty and despair!’ ‘Nothing besides remains’.</p>	<p>London - Blake.</p> <p>Written in 1794 for Blake's compilation of ‘Songs of Innocence and Experience’. Songs of Innocence focussed on childhood, whilst those of Experience displayed a pessimistic view of a corrupt society.</p> <p>Blake was a painter and poet who aspired for social and racial equality. He adhered to the Romantic Movement and valued nature, the power of the individual and emotion.</p> <p>The Industrial Revolution (1760 to sometime between 1820 and 1840) saw huge advancements in technology leading to greater manufacturing output. This resulted in urbanisation and poor working and living conditions for the working classes. London's population rose from around 700,000 to over one million.</p> <p>Blake was also inspired by the French Revolution and was enthused by the people uniting to overthrow traditional forms of control and restraint : Church, Monarchy, Government. All of these represented to him unnatural and unnecessary forms of regulation.</p> <p>Reverent of the Bible but hostile to the Church of England (indeed, to almost all forms of organised religion)</p> <p>‘I wander through each chartered street’ ‘chartered Thames’ ‘Marks of weakness, marks of woe’ ‘In every cry of every man’ ‘mind-forged manacles’ ‘chimney-sweeper’s cry’ ‘black’ning church’ ‘youthful harlot’s curse’ ‘Blasts the new-born infant’s tears’</p>	<p>The Charge of the Light Brigade - Tennyson</p> <p>Written by Tennyson (Poet Laureate) in 1854 in response to a newspaper article on the Battle of Balaclava in the Crimean War (1853–56). 670 men had begun the charge, of whom 118 were killed and 127 wounded: by the end of the episode, only 195 men were left with horses.</p> <p>At the time there was much criticism of mistakes made by military leaders.</p> <p>As Poet Laureate, it was Tennyson’s responsibility to record momentous events.</p> <p>First published only signed by AT.Tennyson created his pen names, worrying that poems like "The Charge of the Light Brigade " 'might prove not to be decorous for a poet laureate' as it presents less than favourable views on the military leadership.</p> <p><i>Honour Patriotism Duty</i></p> <p>Half a league, half a league, Half a league onwards.’ ‘Forward the Light Brigade!’ ‘someone had blundered’ ‘Theirs not to make reply,/Theirs not to reason why,/Theirs but to do and die’ ‘Into the jaws of Death Into the mouth of Hell’ ‘All the world wondered’ ‘When can their glory fade?’ ‘Honour the Light Brigade Noble ix hundred!’</p>	<p>Exposure – Wilfred Owen</p> <p>Written in the winter of 1917 while Owen was experiencing the harsh conditions he writes about.</p> <p>He died two weeks before the end of WW1.</p> <p>Suffered for shell shock (PTSD) after being injured and left in No Man’s Land. His work was heavily influenced by Sassoon, who he met during his recovery.</p> <p>Owen wrote in response to poems of the time glorifying war eg Jessie Pope's ‘Who’s for the Game?’</p> <p>Other works by Owen ‘Anthem for Domed Youth’, ‘Dulce Et Decorum Est’</p> <p><i>Sacrifice Suffering Hopelessness Monotony Frustration Abandoned</i></p> <p>‘the merciless icy east winds that knife us’ ‘But nothing happens’ ‘Like twitching agonies of men among its brambles’ ‘What are we doing here?’ ‘We only know war lasts, rain soaks, and clouds sag stormy.’ Slowly our ghosts drag home’ ‘innocent mice’ ‘on us the doors are closed’ ‘For love of God seems dying’</p>	<p>Bayonet Charge – Ted Hughes</p> <p>Published in 1957, Ted Hughes (1930-1998) describes the experience of going ‘over the top’ , the form of combat experienced in the trenches in WW1(1914-1918). Men would attach their bayonets onto the end of their rifles and charge at the enemy when given the order. Many did not survive with an estimated 16 million killed and 37 million casualties, WW1 was one of the most catastrophic conflicts in the history of the human race.</p> <p>Ted Hughes was never in WW1, but his father was and told stories of his survival at Gallipoli, when the rest of his regiment were massacred.</p> <p>He spent 2 years in the RAF and then studied Anthropology and Archaeology. His Yorkshire background and interests show in his poetry which is full of allusions to the countryside, human history and mythology. This poem is influenced by the WW1 poets Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen.</p> <p><i>Doubt Patriotism Panic Instinct</i></p> <p>‘Suddenly he awoke and was running’ ‘a rifle numb as a smashed arm’ ‘The patriotic tear...’ ‘Sweating like molten iron from the centre of his chest,-’ ‘he almost stopped’ ‘Like a man who has jumped up in the dark and runs Listening between his footfalls for the reason Of his still running.’ ‘King, honour, human dignity, etcetera Dropped like luxuries’ ‘His terror’s touchy dynamite’</p>
<p>Remains – Simon Armitage</p> <p>Published in his 2008 collection ‘The Not Dead’ which was originally a documentary on Channel 4 Armitage was involved with to raise awareness of PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). The speaker throughout the dramatic monologue is Guardsman Tromans, a British soldier who fought in Iraq in 2003. After returning to Britain he truned to drink and drugs. When he asked for help from the Army he was laughed at.</p> <p>“These are poems of survivors – the damaged, exhausted men who return from war in body but never, wholly, in mind.”</p> <p>ARMITAGE</p> <p>Born in 1963 in Marsden near Huddersfield, Armitage studied geography at Portsmouth University then completed an MA in social work at Manchester University. His poems particularly bring to life the experiences of adolescence and his work has featured widely in the school curriculum. His poems have a lively energy and a modern feel.</p> <p><i>Responsibility Regret PTSD</i></p> <p>‘On another occasion’ ‘probably armed, possibly not.’ ‘Three os a kind all letting fly.’ ‘it rips through his life,’ ‘sort of inside out’ ‘End of story, except not really.’ ‘Sleep, and he’s probably armed, possibly not’ ‘And the drink and the drugs won’t flush him out- he’s here in my head when I close my eyes dug in behind enemy lines’ ‘near to the knuckle here and now his bloody life in my bloody hands’</p>	<p>Poppies – Jane Weir</p> <p>Published in The Guardian in 2009 Weir’s poem ‘Poppies’ was commissioned by Duffy as part of a collection of ten contemporary war poems. These were a response to the escalating conflict in Afghanistan and the Iraq inquiry.</p> <p>Weir is a writer and textile designer and references textile throughout the poem.</p> <p>Armistice Day – Remembrance Day – 11th November – the date of the ceasefire between forces fighting in WW1. This date is traditionally a time to commemorate all those who have died fighting for their country.</p> <p>Poppies are a symbol of the lives lost during conflict. Poppies grow across many former battlefields in France.</p> <p>‘I wrote the piece from a woman's perspective, which is quite rare, as most poets who write about war have been men. As the mother of two teenage boys, I tried to put across how I might feel if they were fighting in a war zone.’ WEIR</p> <p><i>Military language Loss Grief</i></p> <p>‘Three days before Armistice Sunday’ ‘spasms of red, disrupting a blockade of yellow bias binding around your blazer’ ‘Sellotape bandaged around my hand’ ‘I resisted the impulse to run my fingers through the gelled blackthorns of your hair’ ‘like a treasure chest’ ‘released a song bird from its cage’ ‘my stomach busy/making tucks, darts, pleats’ ‘like a wishbone’ ‘hoping to hear/ your playground voice catching on the wind’</p>	<p>War Photographer – Carol Ann Duffy</p> <p>Published in 1985 in Duffy’s collection ‘Standing Female Nude’.</p> <p>Scottish poet, and is currently the UK’s first female (and first Scottish) Poet Laureate. Reproduced in 2004.</p> <p>The darkroom is a reference to the process of developing film (but has polysemous connotations).</p> <p>Duffy ws friends with Don McCullen and Phillip Jones-Griffith, famous war photographers. Sje draws on their experiences as well as the famous image taken by Nick Ut of ‘Napalm Girl’ _ line 12 ‘of running children in a nightmare heat’.</p> <p>Duffy focusses on the unheard voices of conflict.</p> <p>‘All felsh is grass’ is a reference to Isaiah 40:6 meaning life is brief.</p> <p><i>Superficiality</i></p> <p>‘In his darkroom’ ‘spools of suffering set out in ordered rows’ ‘All flesh is grass’ ‘Rural England’ ‘Of children running in a nightmare heat’ ‘Something is happening. A stranger’s features Faintly start to twist before my eyes, A half-formed ghost’ ‘A hundred agonies in black and white’ ‘The reader’s eyeballs prick with tears between the bath and the pre-lunch beers’ ‘they do not care’</p>	<p>The Emigree – Carol Rumens</p> <p>Written in 1993 by Rumens, a poet, lecturer and translator who has travelled extensively across Eastern Europe and Russia.</p> <p>Appeard in her collecton entitled ‘Thinking of Skins’</p> <p>‘I would rather describe myself simply as someone who loves language, and who tries to make various things with it’ RUMENS</p> <p>Emigree is the French form of emigrant which means to leave. This choice of language suggests the speaker has no sense of belonger to her new country. Her heart is firmly routed in her former ‘There once was a country’</p> <p>Rumens is writing as a character, not from her own experience.</p> <p><i>Displacement Emigrant Belonging Dictatorship Dilemma Idyllic Reconcile</i></p> <p>‘There once was a country...I left it as a child’ ‘the bright, filled paperweight’ ‘sunlight’ ‘It maybe at war, it maybe sick with tyrants’ ‘time rolls its tanks’ ‘That child’s vocabulary’ ‘I have no passport, there’s no way back at all but my city comes to me in its own white plane’ ‘My city takes me dancing’ ‘They accuse me of absence, they circle me’ ‘my shadow falls as evidence of sunlight’</p>	<p>Kamikaze – Beatrice Garland</p> <p>Written in 2013 and published as part of her first collection ‘The invention of Fireworks’.</p> <p>Beatrice Garland (b 1938) is a poet, NHS clinician and teacher. She states that writing poetry is ‘a marvellous part of one’s interior private life’. Her poetry often involves people’s attitudes to and treatment of one another.</p> <p>Japan is often referred to as ‘The Land of the Rising Sun’ this imagery appears within the poem. Japanese society has complex rules regarding social exchange. It is strict and disciplined. Honour figures highly in all elements of society.</p> <p>As part of a kamikaze’s training, they had to take an oath which determined the way they lived and thought. A kamikaze pilot was willing to sacrifice his life by deliberately crashing their planes into American warships. Their sacrifice was seen as both a religious and patriotic obligation. It was considered an honour to die for the good of the country. Those who returned were outcast from society and had to bear their shame.</p> <p><i>Honour Shame Stigmatised Duty Valour Dichotomy</i></p> <p>‘Her father embarked at sunrise’ ‘fresh water, a samurai sword...a shaven head full of powerful incantations’ ‘but half way there, she thought’ ‘little fishing boats/ strung out like bunting’ ‘like a huge flag waved just one way’ ‘the dark shoals of fishes flashing silver as their bellies swivelled towards the sun’ ‘the dark prine, muscular dangerous’ ‘they treated him As though he no longer existed’</p>

