

Year 8 – Autumn – Conflict

Key vocabulary

Definition of Conflict: Conflict refers to some form of friction, disagreement, or discord arising between individuals or groups.

Themes:

Analytical verbs:

Emotional Vocabulary

- The glory and honour of war vs the reality of war
 - Vulnerability of humans
- The sacrifices made by men and families
 - Conflict between men and nature
 - The irrationality of war
- The long term effects of war (PTSD, mental health)
- 'forgotten heroes'- those that survive war but live with the experience

- Conveys*
- Creates*
- Depicts*
- Describes*
- Develops*
- Emphasises*
- Implies*
- Portrays*
- Presents*
- Reinforces*
- Reveals*
- Suggests*

- Sympathetic
 - Pity
- Apprehensive
- Intimidated
- Shocked
- Enraged
- Guilty
- Outraged
- Relieved
- Optimistic
- Empowered
- Inspired
- Compassionate

Big question: What inspires poetry? Why were writers compelled to write about war?

Social and Historical Context

WW1 took place 1914-1918 and became known as 'the war to end all wars.' Over 9 million soldiers lost their lives during WW1 and a further 7 million civilians were lost. It was thought that the war effort would be quick and find a swift resolution, but many soldiers lost their lives from endless waiting on front lines during harsh conditions. Propaganda kept the public under the belief that a soldier's life was honourable and exciting; the reality was very different.

Soldiers kept diaries and wrote anecdotes or poetry to record their experiences; Wilfred Owen's letters to his mother have now been published and show the horrific and lasting impact of war.

Owen: In 1915 Owen enlisted in the British Army. His first experiences of active service at Serre and St. Quentin in January-April 1917 led to shell-shock and his return to Britain. Whilst he was undergoing treatment at the Craiglockhart War Hospital in Edinburgh, he met one of his literary heroes, Siegfried Sassoon, who encouraged him to write about his experiences. Owen felt a great deal of responsibility for the soldiers under his command. When Owen returned to the Western Front, after more than a year away, he took part in the breaking of the Hindenburg Line at Joncourt (October 1918) for which he was awarded the Military Cross in recognition of his courage and leadership. He was killed on 4 November 1918 during the battle to cross the Sambre-Oise canal at Ors.

Duffy: Duffy is a Scottish poet and is currently the UK's first female (and first Scottish) [Poet Laureate](#). Born in Glasgow, she wrote poetry from an early age, and was first published at the age of 15. She has since written plays, critical works, and several volumes of poetry. Her poetry has been the subject of controversy. Duffy's poetry is often feminist in its themes and approach.

Armitage: Simon Armitage was born in 1963 in Yorkshire. He initially became a probation officer - some of the poems in his first published collection, *Zoom* (1989), draw upon his experiences. He then had various other jobs, including shelf stacking and being a DJ. He has written several poetry collections. He often uses the Yorkshire dialect and is interested in dialects and slang. Many of his poems contain puns and other word-play. He also writes about everyday events in a thought-provoking way. His poem *Manhunt* was inspired by a Channel 4 documentary, 'Forgotten Heroes: The Not Dead' which followed the stories of soldiers and their families.

Other Notable War Poets

Alfred Tennyson	Rupert Brooke	Owen Sheers	Siegfried Sassoon	Robert Graves	Ivor Gurney	Robert Nichols	Isaac Rosenberg	Charles Sorley	Edward Thomas	John McCrae	Carol Ann Duffy
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fatigue

obscene

Poignant

incessantly

Patriotic

fractured

Punctured

Flound'ring

writhing

Corrupted

Ardent

Zest

conflict

vulnerability

Pride

Glory

Key techniques

Narrative voice

Semantic field

contrast

Assonance

Sibilance

alliteration

Meter

Figurative

Enjambment

Juxtaposition

Syntax

Personification

Caesura

Symbolism

stanza

Context