



# Rainford High School English Department – Year 8 War Poetry Knowledge Organiser

Context	Key Poets	Key Poems
<p><b>War Poetry</b> - Poets have written about the experience of war since the Greeks, but the young soldier poets of the First World War established war poetry as a literary genre. In 1914 hundreds of young men in uniform took to writing poetry as a way of striving to express extreme emotion at the very edge of experience.</p> <p><b>WWI - World War I</b> was an international conflict that in 1914–18 embroiled most of the nations of Europe along with Russia, the United States, the Middle East, and other regions. The war was virtually unprecedented in the slaughter, carnage, and destruction it caused. World War I began after the assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand on June 28, 1914.</p> <p><b>Bosnian War</b> - The <b>Bosnian War</b> was an international armed conflict that took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina between 1992 and 1995. The war is commonly seen as having started on 6 April 1992, following a number of violent incidents earlier in the year. The war ended on 14 December 1995. The war was part of the breakup of Yugoslavia.</p>	<p><b>Wilfred Owen</b> – Wilfred Owen, who wrote some of the best British poetry on World War I, composed nearly all of his poems in slightly over a year, from August 1917 to September 1918. In November 1918 he was killed in action at the age of 25, one week before the Armistice.</p> <p><b>Jessie Pope</b> – Pope was a prolific writer of occasional poetry and prose, and her work was published widely. Glorifying combat, exhorting men to fight, and generally romanticizing war, Pope’s poems have been vilified as propaganda.</p> <p><b>Rupert Brooke</b> – Like most men of his age - 27 - and class, Brooke immediately volunteered for service in the war. His poetry, with its unabashed patriotism and graceful lyricism, was respected and revered.</p> <p><b>Siegfried Sassoon</b> – Siegfried Sassoon is best remembered for his angry and compassionate poems about World War I. Avoiding the sentimentality and jingoism of many war poets, Sassoon wrote of the horror and brutality of trench warfare.</p> <p><b>Gerrit Engelke</b> - Gerrit Engelke was born in Hannover in 1890. He began his military training in Flensburg in October 1914. In 1917 he was wounded and sent home to recover. On October 11th 1918 he was badly wounded, taken prisoner and died in a British field.</p>	<p><b><i>Dulce et Decorum est</i></b> - The main message of this poem is that it is not "sweet and fitting to die for one's country" as so many people choose to believe; war is tragic and awful and gruesome and miserable, and so are the effects that it has on young people.</p> <p><b><i>Who’s for the Game?</i></b> - The speaker directly addresses the young men of her country, trying to goad them into showing their strength and bravery by joining the armed forces. She refers to war as a “game,” one that’s important for them to participate in and see if they can win.</p> <p><b><i>The Soldier</i></b> – ‘The Soldier’ is a poem by Rupert Brooke written in 1914. It is a deeply patriotic and idealistic poem that expresses a soldier's love for England.</p> <p><b><i>Suicide in the Trenches</i></b> – ‘Suicide in the Trenches’ draws on Sassoon's own experiences as a soldier in the British Army during World War I.</p> <p><b><i>The Manhunt</i></b> – ‘Manhunt’ ostensibly describes a wife and her views on her partner's experiences in the military. She explores issues with her partner's physical and mental health.</p> <p><b><i>After a Bad Dream</i></b> – This poem expresses the despair of the speaker after several years in the trenches.</p>
<b>Key Themes</b>	<b>Key Vocabulary</b>	<b>Key Terminology</b>
<p>War Conflict Power Anger Patriotism</p>	<p><b>Patriotic</b> - having or expressing devotion to and vigorous support for one's country  <b>Jingoism</b> - extreme patriotism, especially in the form of aggressive or warlike foreign policy  <b>Propaganda</b> - information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.  <b>Conscription</b> - compulsory enlistment for state service, typically into the armed forces</p>	<p><b>Simile</b> - a comparison using like or as  <b>Metaphor</b> - a direct comparison of two ideas or objects  <b>Enjambment</b> - no punctuation at the end of a line  <b>Imagery</b> - visually descriptive or figurative language  <b>Personification</b> - giving human feelings or actions to an inanimate object  <b>Caesura</b> - a pause or break within the line  <b>Stanza</b> - a set of lines in a poem  <b>Iambic pentameter</b> - a rhythm in poetry consisting of 5 metrical feet  <b>Symbolism</b> - the use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities</p>