

POWER AND CONFLICT POETRY

LEARN SHEET

OZYMANDIAS

- The poem is about the statue of a long dead king
- The statue is breaking down; this shows how people are forgetting the dead king
- Power does not last forever

Context link: Written in 1819, it was inspired by a large statue of the Egyptian Pharaoh, Ramesses II. The Egyptian Pharaohs like Ramesses believed themselves to be gods.



THE PRELUDE (EXTRACT).

- The poem is about a journey on the river.
- The poet is at peace but by the end of the journey he becomes troubled.
- The journey helps show how mankind is a part of nature but does not rule over it.

Context link: William Wordsworth was a Romantic poet so he wrote poems about the world we live in which challenged people and the way they thought at the time.

CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE

- The poem repeats a lot to remind us the charge and then the retreat.
- The poet thinks the men are brave calling them 'heros'
- The poem is full of violence shown through the use of language like 'sabres' and 'cannons.'

Context link: During a battle of the Crimean war, a mistake sent the light brigade charging head first into the cannons of the other side. It was a huge disaster and many died. The men were respected for following orders, even though they knew they may be wrong.



STORM ON THE ISLAND

- The poem is about a cottage in a storm being attacked by the weather.
- The poet is friendly and speaking in a very calm conversational way to the reader.
- The poet shows that sometimes what we fear is not worth being afraid of.

Context link: Seamus Heaney was a poet in Ireland. He grew up as a farmer's son and many of his poems were about very normal and homely subjects. He uses a large number of farming and natural images in his work.



LONDON

- The poem is about the misery of life in London.
- The poet is upset at the loss of joy and innocence.
- People in power are living on the pain of others.

Context link: The poem is set during a time in England where there was poverty, child labour and a horrific war with France. Women had no rights, death rates from disease were high and the industrial revolution has resulted in many large factories.

MY LAST DUCHESS

- The poem is spoken by a Duke and talks about his last wife.
- He is normally polite but the more he talks about her, the more he becomes jealous.
- We see that he is a powerful rich man but was in fact he could not control his wife, he was at conflict even though she was not trying to anger him.

Context link: Browning was a poet in the 19th century. He left the country and went to Italy to marry fellow poet Elizabeth Barrett because of her over protective father. As a result they were both familiar with over controlling male figures.



EXPOSURE

- The poem talks about soldiers suffering in bad weather.
- The poet feels sadness and helplessness that these men are without hope and nothing is changing.
- The poet uses a lot of alliteration and pauses in the poem to make it drag out and help us imagine the weather conditions.

Context link: Wilfred Owen was a soldier in World War 1. He died before the end of the war but during his time he saw the full horror of conditions on the front line. He was angry about the conditions soldiers had to live with.

BAYONET CHARGE

- The poem is about a soldier going over the trenches to attack.
- There is a mix of language which talks about the soldier as a machine but also being quite like an animal.
- The structure of the poem is a mix of fast and slow to show the confusion of fighting.

Context link: The poet, Ted Hughes, was a former RAF serviceman and includes a great amount of natural and historical ideas in his poems and he often looks at man's impact on nature.



REMAINS

- The poem looks at the experiences of a soldier at war and how he suffers from the memory.
- The poem uses a lot of slang to show the tone of the speaker.
- The way he talks about what happened and the actual content of what happened don't seem to match up.

Context link: Post traumatic stress and mental illness is very common in soldiers who struggle to come to terms with some part of their duty.

POPPIES

- The poem looks at the relationship of Mother and Son.
- The poem uses very natural monologue style to give it a very easy to understand tone.
- The poem mixes language to do with war along with those that create a sense of home life.

Context link: The poem is based very heavily around the idea of Poppies as memorials and therefore the idea of memory.



WAR PHOTOGRAPHER

- The poem talks about a man back in England thinking about the photos he took in warzones.
- The man in the poem is bitter about how people see war.
- The poem uses structure to show how he tries to make sense of his experiences.

Context link: The poem explores the contrast between the war zones and safety of being back home and the way people fail to understand the truth. War photographers do a dangerous job and many are killed and injured.

TISSUE

- The poet looks at how the world would be different if it had more shared qualities with tissues.
- The poet looks at some of the big problems in the world through metaphors.
- The poem is hopeful and often talks about sun and shining

Context link: Imtiaz Dharker is a poet and film maker. She has Pakistani origins and was raised in Glasgow. A great number of her poems look at issues such as religion, terrorism and global politics/identity.



THE EMIGREE

- The poem looks at a childhood memory of a city
- The speaker struggles to understand how the city has changed.
- The city can represent growth and change in identity with all people.

Context link: Emigree relates to the word emigrate, the idea that a person goes and settles in another country, sometimes not feeling welcome to return.



CHECKING OUT ME HISTORY

- The poet is at conflict with the way he is taught history and his own background.
- The poet explores the background of different ethnicities
- The poet writes in a way so as to show his accent and the way he talks to the reader.

Context link: The poem gives examples of powerful black figures from history, often involved in conflicts themselves



KAMIKAZE

- The poem changes between the voice of the narrator and the daughter of the pilot.
- The poem shows the pilots hope to avoid death, only to be 'dead' to his family.
- The poem uses a range of fishing and sea like language to show the conflict between nature and man, and how he tries to fight this.

Context link: Kamikaze pilots were expected to use up all their weapons and then suicide by flying into their targets as a final act of destruction. It was considered a great honour in Japan to die for your country.



- Simile
- Metaphor
- Personification
- Pathetic fallacy
- Onomatopoeia
- Sibilance
- Assonance
- Consonance
- Alliteration
- Rhyme
- Rhythm
- Juxtaposition
- Contrast
- Imagery
- Repetition
- Rhetorical question
- Stanza
- Line
- Sonnet
- Blank verse
- Dramatic monologue
- Regular
- Irregular
- Enjambment
- Anaphora
- Hyperbole
- Caesura

ANSWERING THE QUESTION:

- ✓ You will be asked one question
- ✓ You will be given one poem to discuss
- ✓ You must choose another poem to compare it to
- ✓ Use quotations
- ✓ Include terminology
- ✓ Explain the effect of the writer's techniques
- ✓ Compare the poems and their link to the theme of power/conflict



REVISION TIPS:

- Create Venn Diagrams comparing each pair of poems
- Create groups that the poems fit in to
- Learn key quotations for each poem
- Write mock exam questions and plan your responses
- Revise poetic devices and key terminology
- Summarise each poem in a sketch and label with quotations