

English Literature Revision Pack

Poetry Anthology – Miss Crawford

The Manhunt by Simon Armitage

Context- The Manhunt is about the **patience and care of love**. The wife in the poem is methodical and thorough in her search, exploring her husband's injured body with love and care. **The poem is not about judging the rights and wrongs of war, but the impact of war on one particular relationship. The poem also explores the cost of war on those serving in the armed forces.**

Structure- **The poem is made up of a series of couplets, mostly unrhymed. This creates a sense of fragmentation, which matches the feelings of the soldier's wife as she seeks to understand what her husband has become.**

Possible Links- War and its lasting effects – Mametz Wood, A Wife in London and Dulce et Decorum Est
Relationships and love – Cozy Apologia and A Wife in London
Suffering (mental and physical) – Mametz Wood and Dulce et Decorum Est

THEMES- LOVE, WAR

Language Features- **The metaphor of "the frozen river which ran down his face" suggests the husband's facial expression, or his tears or a scar he got from the war.**

- The wife says that **she is able to "climb the rungs of his broken ribs"**, a closely observed detail of her hands exploring the altered body of her husband. Or that **the wife could be building her husband back up emotionally from his time at war.**
- The **speaker refers to parts of the husband's body metaphorically**, comparing them to inanimate objects rather than to living things. **His jaw is a "blown hinge", suggesting that he is no longer open to her, perhaps unable to talk of his feelings and experiences.**
- **The title is a pun on the word 'manhunt', suggesting literally a hunt to capture a man, often a criminal.** Here the wife's search is for the husband she knew so well but who seems lost to her, metaphorically, after his experiences at war.

Sonnet 43 by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Context- Elizabeth Barret Browning was a prominent Victorian poet. She suffered from lifelong illness, despite which she married the poet and playwright Robert Browning, **who was a major influence on her work, and to whom Sonnet 43 is addressed.** Elizabeth Barrett Browning's sonnet sequence was written before she married Robert Browning to express her intense love for him.

Language Features- **The poem makes use of repetition: "I love thee" is used eight times and reflects the devotion the poet feels for her lover as well as the persistent nature of that love.**

- **Repetition is also used in a list on line 2 "depth and breadth and height", it aims to fully define the poet's love.** Repetition here also suggests breathlessness and excitement. It is also a rule of three and the writer is trying to convince her husband to believe her love is so intense for him.
- **The poem is autobiographical.**
- "I love thee with a love I seemed to lose/With my lost Saints!" **Here enjambment is used as if to suggest her love is lost but is restored with her continual faith in her lover.** Her lover becomes a spiritual saviour. She is not totally without faith, however: "if God choose,/I shall but love thee better after death". **Here the verb 'shall' suggests she asserts the idea that if God controls her future then she hopes to be reunited with her lover in the afterlife.**

THEMES- LOVE.

Structure- **Sonnet 43 is the length of a traditional sonnet (14 lines) but otherwise does not follow the rules.**

There is a fairly regular rhyme scheme, but this is flexible.

Browning often makes use of assonance (for example "Praise" and "Faith"), which is striking because the poem is about defining the perfect love, and yet the poem avoids perfection. Perhaps this is deliberate.

Possible links- Relationships and love – Cozy Apologia, Valentine and She Walks in Beauty.

London by William Blake

Context- William Blake was born in Soho in London and **therefore his observations of his place of birth are autobiographical**. Blake was very religious and was considered a 'humanist'. **Blake's speaker has a very negative view of the city**. For Blake, the conditions faced by people caused them to decay physically, morally and spiritually. The poem is pessimistic. It is without hope for the future. Blake is a romantic poet.

Language Features-The first stanza sets the scene of London "Thames does flow," **and uses the first person " I wander thro' each charter' d street" which makes it personal to the speaker.**

- Repetition is used in the line "Marks of weakness, marks of woe". The second use of repetition is with the word "marks". **This has a dual meaning: it refers to the physical marks carried by people as a result of the conditions they endure, and is also suggestive of the speaker recording evidence during his walk through the city streets.**
- The second stanza **uses repetition of the word "every" which emphasises it effects everyone. The writer also uses emotive language "in every cry" "in every Infant's cry" "in every voice" to engage the reader to feel sympathy for the children.** The metaphor "mind-forg'd manacles" suggest people are slaves to the circumstances they were born to.
- The **poem ends with a startling juxtaposition in the language chosen: "marriage hearse". To Blake, marriage should be a celebration of love and the beginning of new life. Yet here it is combined with the word "hearse" - a vehicle associated with funerals. To the speaker of the poem, the future brings nothing but death and decay.**

THEMES- NATURE

Structure- **As the title of the collection suggests, London is presented in a very regular way, much like a song.** There is **a strict abab rhyme scheme in each of the four stanzas.** The four stanzas offer a glimpse of different aspects of the city, almost like snapshots seen by the speaker during his "wander thro'" the streets.

Possible links- Welfare and living conditions – Living Space
Power and control – Hawk Roosting, Ozymandias

The Solider by Rupert Brooke

Context- **The poem celebrates patriotism and Englishness.** Rupert Brooke was a solider in WW1 and wrote the poem before he went to war. **His poem was used as propaganda.**

Structure- a sonnet that uses iambic pentameter.

Possible links- Patriotism – Dulce et Decorum Est
Impact of war – Dulce et Decorum Est and A Wife in London
Pride – Ozymandias and Dulce et Decorum Est

THEMES- WAR, NATURE

Language Features- **In the poem England is mentioned six times and could be seen as a symbol. England is a mother to a solider, nourished him, and made him who he is.**

England is also immortal “forever England.”

- The line **“A dust whom England bore,”** has a double meaning. It acts as a metaphor for the soldier's relationship with the natural world and the fact he may soon be a corpse. It also acts as personification as England is given human qualities of a mother who bears children. ‘England’ is also a proper noun.
- There is **a lot of natural imagery within the poem “flowers, rivers, suns, fields,”** and the relationship between the speaker and the natural world is very close, even harmonious. He will eventually die and return to earth (as dust). As a child he was “washed” and “blest” by the suns and rivers of his homeland. When he dies his heaven will look like the England he knew as a child.

She Walks in Beauty by Lord Byron

Context- She Walks in Beauty is a short eighteen line poem **celebrating female beauty**. The **beauty of the woman the speaker describes is in both her external appearance and her inner goodness**. Although it may be generally considered to be a love poem, the speaker never actually declares his love. He concentrates on the woman's captivating beauty and purity.

Possible links- Relationships and love – Sonnet 43, Cozy Apologia and Valentine

Structure- The poem has three stanzas, each consisting of six lines. **The rhyme scheme is regular and follows the pattern ababab**. This **emphasises regularity in the subject's walk but also her faultless perfection**. Working **against this rhythm, Byron makes much use of enjambment**. It is almost as though the speaker cannot pause for breath in trying to tell the reader about how beautiful this woman is.

THEMES- LOVE/RELATIONSHIPS

Language Features- **The poet uses rich and varied language which draws attention to itself through literary devices such as alliteration and assonance**. For instance, in the first stanza there are two examples of alliteration in the second line ('Of cloudless climes and starry skies') while a pattern of assonance weaves around this (the 'i' sounds of: 'night', 'climes', 'skies', 'bright', 'eyes', 'light' and 'denies'). All but one of these words is brought to the reader's attention by being placed at the ends of the lines.

Antithesis is used on a number of occasions e.g 'One shade the more, one ray the less'. In this line 'shade' is contrasted with 'ray' and 'more' with 'less'. This repeated use of opposites may highlight the confusion in the speaker's mind as he tries to come to terms with trying to describe the woman's overpowering attractiveness – something which is basically beyond words.

Living Space by Imitiaz Dharker

Context- The poem describes a ramshackle living space, with its lack of 'straight lines' and beams 'balanced crookedly on supports'. Imitiaz Dharker has explained that the poem describes the slums of Mumbai, where people migrate from all over India in the hope of a better life. **In this poem she celebrates the existence of these living spaces as a miracle.**

Structure- The **poem Living Space begins with Dharker being sarcastic towards the negative views of the slums.** The **middle stanza represents the small 'Living Space' the people have to use as the stanza is 'squeezed' into the middle of the poem.** The poem ends with Dharker's admiration of the people who live in the slums and their positive attitudes towards their negative circumstances.

Possible links and themes- Welfare and living conditions – London
Fragility of life and resilience of spirit – The Manhunt and Mametz Wood

THEMES-NATURE

Language Features- The **title is ironic as there isn't much "living space" in the slums of Mumbai.**

The **enjambment of the poem reflects how the structures lean over and are on top of each other and the central stanza is "squeezed" in to reflect how living spaces are "squeezed" into small gaps.**

Language such as "crookedly", "clutch" and "leans dangerously" suggests it is **unsafe.**

The **image of the "eggs" shows ordinary objects make the slums feel like home and also reflect the fragility of life.**

Final words – "**thin walls of faith" suggests the existence of these living spaces is a miracle and implies they still have "faith" even in difficult conditions.**

As Imperceptibly as Grief by Emily Dickinson

Context- This poem is about **Emily Dickinson's fear of death and feeling that she is tricked by time passing away**. It could **also be speaking of how her happiness is disappearing**. Emily Dickinson lived in Massachusetts, USA, 1830-86. She was reclusive so did not leave the house often. Before she wrote this poem several family members and friends had died.

Structure- Dickinson uses a series of dashes to create a hesitant and disjointed pace to the poem, reflecting her own fractured state of mind.

Possible links and themes- Time passing – To Autumn and Afternoons
The natural world – To Autumn, Excerpt from the Prelude and Death of a Naturalist

THEMES- LOVE, RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NATURAL WORLD

Language Features- **The title and the first line "As imperceptibly as Grief"** links the idea of grief to the passing of summer.

The images of the end of a day/season such as "dusk", "twilight" and "Summer lapsed away" suggest the passing of time and life. The verb **'lapsed'** could represent that time is passing and the speaker in the poem is thinking that death is approaching.

Final words – "Summer made her light escape Into the Beautiful" suggests the passage of time is inevitable but will end in something more positive – possibly a release into heaven. The tone of the final words is more hopeful than the rest of the poem. The noun **'light'** could suggest that the speaker has finally accepted that time passes and that they will have to face death.

Cozy Apologia by Rita Dove

Context- Waiting for a storm to hit, **the speaker hunkers down, snug and safe in her study**. Though Hurricane Floyd disrupts the business of daily life, it also allows time for daydreams. So, with time on her hands, the speaker finds herself daydreaming about her partner. Everything the speaker sees, from the rain outside to the ink on the page, reminds her of her partner. She pictures him as a knight in shining armour, protecting her. He's a vivid contrast, she thinks, to the 'worthless' boys she used to date. **The word 'apologia' means 'a defence'**.

Structure- In the first stanza, **Dove uses the clichéd image of a knight in shining armour**.

In the **second stanza, Dove reminisces on her childhood 'crushes'**.
In the **last stanza, Dove ends with how happy she is with her everyday 'ordinary; life/relationship'**.

Possible links- Relationships and love – Sonnet 43, She Walks in Beauty and Valentine

THEMES- LOVE

- Language Features- The **poem is in first person** and could be autobiographical – “I could pick anything and think of you”. Dove is using a first person viewpoint. **The pronoun 'anything' suggests everything in her life has memories of being with her husband**.
- **Uses a cliché ironically** – “the chain mail glinting” and **has a dreamy tone but is affectionate and humorous**.
- **It is a love poem filled with day to day details such as “compact disks” and “faxes” which shows it is about the realities of relationships, not “the divine”**.
- The hurricane “Big Bad Floyd” has allowed her to daydream about the “worthless” boys of her past. Dove has time to think about the ‘worthless boys’ she used to be interested in. **The simile ‘were as thin as licorice’ suggests that she wasted her time with them and that they had no substance to them because they are ‘hollow’ and empty**.
- **Final words** – “I fill this stolen time with you” **suggests their relationship is happy and appreciated and the tone is reflective and thoughtful. Being content is better than great romance – it is consistent**.

Valentine By Carol Ann Duffy

THEMES-LOVE

- Context- **Duffy likes to break conventions and in Valentine she is criticising society's views of being materialistic.** Duffy's poetry is often feminist in its themes and approach. Valentine describes a gift for a lover, such as you would give on Valentine's Day. It is a rather unusual present – an onion. **The poem explains why it is a powerful gift of love, much more than the clichéd roses or box of chocolates.** The onion becomes a metaphor for love, and so the poem is about love as well as Valentine gifts.

- Structure- The **poem begins by listing clichéd gifts that people give and receive for Valentine's Day.** As the poem progresses, **Duffy explores pain and hurt that is associated with love and she ends the poem using a negative tone and a hint of danger.**

- Possible links- Relationships and love – Sonnet 43, She Walks in Beauty and Cozy Apologia

- Language Features- The first line "**not a red rose or a satin heart**", stands out and **creates an initially assertive and negative tone. This surprises the reader who is perhaps expecting a traditional romantic poem having read the title.** This confrontational tone is repeated throughout the poem, emphasising the poet's intention to challenge the stereotypical ideas of love – "cute card", "red rose".
- Duffy uses the **first person ("I") in the line "I am trying to be truthful,"** and **present tense** to make the **poem seem very personal and immediate.** It is like we are watching her profess her love.
- **The language becomes increasingly dark and almost violent in the second half of the poem. The adjectives "fierce" and "lethal" create a threatening tone to the poem.** She seems slightly unstable towards the end of the poem – "possessive".
- **Duffy repeatedly uses imperatives to command her lover's attention such as "take it" and "here".** This could **suggest she is confident in communicating her love – or perhaps hints at a desperate and needy side to her.**
- The final stanza leaves the reader wondering what the 'lethal' consequences might be if she doesn't get her way!

A Wife in London by Thomas Hardy

- Context- Thomas Hardy was a novelist – so was a storyteller. The poem is probably related to the Boer War but the fact she is 'a' wife reflects the tragedy of how many lives were lost during many wars.

- THEMES- LOVE, WAR AND NATURE IN THE FORM OF SURROUNDINGS

- Language Features- The **poem is structured in two halves “The Tragedy” and “The Irony” showing it is like chapters in a tragic story. The two halves could suggest her life has been split into two.**
- **The language is ominous, indicating darkness and tragedy – “tawny vapour”, “webby fold” and “waning taper”. The simile “waning taper” may imply that the light of her light is going out, perhaps with her hopes for the future.**
- **“He – has fallen--” is a euphemism to shield the widow from the harsh truth but the dashes represent her grief and inability to process the news of her husband’s death.** The dashes indicates the short sharp breaking sounds, perhaps this was how she read the letter. It may also suggest how her life is now broken.
- **Pathetic fallacy of the “fog hangs thicker” shows her grief is settling in.** The fog is ominous and can cover things up, much like communications in war. Also “in the summer weather” could symbolise hope and that they will be happy.
- Final words – **“new love that they would learn” shows the irony that he was looking forward to their new life together. It heightens the tragedy and heartbreak of his death because they will never be together and rekindle their relationship.**

- Structure- **The poem is divided into two events covering two days: ‘The Tragedy’ and ‘The Irony’.**
- **There is a clear rhyme scheme in each verse, creating a sense of inevitability to these tragic events.**
- **Hardy uses the present tense to create a sense that this is a story unfolding in front of us, making it more dramatic and emotional.**

Possible links to themes-
London life, environment – London
Relationships – The Manhunt
Impact of war – Dulce et Decorum Est, Mamez Wood

Death of A Naturalist by Seamus Heaney

Context- **Seamus Heaney's four year old brother died in a car accident when Heaney was a young boy.** The death affected him badly and **many of his poems are about loss of innocence.** Heaney describes the flies buzzing, and how the sun beats down on the mucky soil. **He pays particular attention to the slimy frogspawn (what eventually becomes tadpoles, then frogs).** This sparks a memory for the speaker, and he **begins to talk about how in school, his teacher had students collect the gooey frogspawn in jars to watch it turn to tadpoles as part of a science lesson about frogs.** Then we're snapped into the present. One hot, steamy and stinky day, the speaker follows the sound of croaking frogs to its source. He sees more frogs than he's ever seen amongst the frogspawn. He becomes that frightened he runs away at the sight of the frogspawn.

Language Features- **Heaney uses the word 'Death' to suggest a metaphorical death of the speaker's innocence.** This could also represent that it is lost forever and they cannot get it back.

- **The adverb 'delicately' is a strange word to use to describe this disgusting scene.** This shows the speaker's appreciation for the flax-dam. 'Best of all' also emphasises his youthful fascination.
- **The vivid memory of "Miss Wall would tell us how" suggests that he is enthusiastic about the lesson regarding the frogs. The noun of "daddy frog" suggests it is a word that young children are likely to call their dad, it has connotations of innocence.**
- The 2nd stanza has a change in tone " then one hot day when fields were rank". The word 'Then' suggests that the speaker in the poem changes his views.
- This is a direct contrast to his enthusiasm and passion in the beginning. Metaphorically, he has now lost his innocence and can see the dangers in the world. The line uses a triple of " I sickened, turned and ran."

THEMES-NATURE

Structure:

- In the first stanza, the speaker in the poem is full of enthusiasm and enjoys nature.
- In the last stanza, this changes as he becomes more aware of the dangers of the world around him.

Possible Themes and Links:

- Loss of innocence – Afternoons
- Childhood memories – Excerpt from The Prelude
- Passing of time – As Imperceptibly as Grief, Excerpt from The Prelude and To Autumn

Hawk Roosting by Ted Hughes

Context- Ted Hughes was Poet Laureate until his death in 1984 and **wrote many poems about the natural world**. Hughes **said the poem wasn't about cruelty – he just wanted to show a hawk's 'natural way of thinking'**. The **speaker of the poem is a hawk who is looking down on the earth beneath him**. He begins the poem perched at the top of a tree, waiting to swoop on his next prey. **His attitude and tone are very arrogant and he compares himself to God**. He is very proud of his place in the food chain and the fact he can choose who lives and who dies.

Structure:

- **The clearly organised structure of the six stanzas reflects the hawk's control over his life and land.**
- **The steady and calm pace to the poem again mirrors the hawk's measured control over the woodland – he will not be rushed by anyone.**

Possible Links:

- Power and control – Ozymandias
- The natural world – To Autumn, Afternoons, Death of a Naturalist

THEMES-NATURE

Language Features- Hawk Roosting- **Hughes uses the image of the hawk to suggest power. The word 'Roosting' implies that the hawk feels at home and is comfortable on his perch.**

"hooked head and hooked feet" **Repetition of 'hooked' suggests he is in control – his claws are sunk in.**

"Or in sleep rehearse perfect kills and eat." He even dreams that his kills go perfectly. He is constantly thinking about death.

"I hold Creation in my foot" **Repetition of 'Creation' and the capitalisation of it emphasises his arrogance and God delusions. The hawk also sees himself as God-like. The metaphor suggests the hawk can protect and damage anything he likes, anything in Creation.**

"My manners are tearing off heads –" **the verb "tearing" reiterates violent language shows his brutality.**

"Through the bones of the living," **the juxtaposition between 'bones' and 'living' reminds the reader he has the power to take life away.**

"My eye has permitted no change," **the verb "permitted" suggests the hawk is in charge – he decides the rules of nature.**

"I am going to keep things like this," **Arrogant tone to end the poem. Reinforces his need for power and control.**

To Autumn by John Keats

Context- Keats was a **romantic poet** and wrote a lot **about nature and the natural world**. The poem 'To Autumn' is an **'Ode'** which **means that it is dedicated to autumn**. Keats wrote the poem **to celebrate the season and the various changes which take place during the time**. The poem is about autumn and covers the three stages of the season – the beginning when fruit/plants are ready to harvest, the middle when animals go into hibernation and things begin to die, and the end as winter begins.

Structure- The **first stanza is a celebration and it suggests that autumn begins in a rich and calm way**.

In the second stanza, **Keats speaks directly to autumn and makes the suggestion that autumn is in no rush to move on**.

The **final stanza shows change, just as the season is changing from autumn to winter**, Keats recognises this and is accepting of the fact he cannot control this.

Possible themes and links:

The passing of time – Afternoons, Death of a Naturalist, As Imperceptibly as Grief

The natural world – Excerpt from The Prelude, Death of a Naturalist.

THEMES-NATURE

Language Features-**"Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness!" Autumn is a season of change**. The **adjective 'mellow' suggests that autumn is calm** and that the changes are not disruptive.

- "Summer has o'erbrimm'd their clammy cells," **Keats uses adjectives such 'o'erbrimm'd' to suggest summer has outstayed its welcome**. Also Summer is repeated as a season- the speaker's life was full and fun, he used his youth well.
- **"Drows'd with the fume of poppies" - could imply that autumn is intoxicating and overwhelmingly beautiful. In addition, it could be a context link to Keat's diagnosis of TB, as it is a painful way to die and although Keats appreciates the flower. It is a direct link to the opium and the pain relief he would be using.**
- **"Thou watchest the last oozing hours by hours" - Autumn has time to observe the changes it has made and enjoy the difference it has made to nature.**
- **"Where are the songs of Spring? Ay where are they?"** The questioning implies the changes autumn has made, spring has been forgotten. **This implies autumn is powerful. The noun "songs" seems to have connotations of spring.**

Afternoons by Phillip Larkin

THEMES-NATURE

Context- **Philip Larkin's poetry celebrates the ordinary details of day to day life.** This is a melancholy poem, which reflects on the subject of marriage. The **poem deals with Larkin's view on young mothers watching their children playing in a playground and he concludes that marrying young leads to the mothers losing their identities.**

Structure-The **first stanza** deals with **Larkin's rather cynical view of marriage and deals with the idea that the young mothers are isolated.**

- In the **second stanza** Larkin **moves from the general view into the individual and describes the mothers as being alone with little support from their working husbands.**
- In the third stanza Larkin focuses back onto the children and how because of them the mothers are unable to live their own lives and they are merely looking in.

Possible Themes and Links:

- Time passing – To Autumn and As Imperceptibly as Grief
- Loss of innocence/growing up – Death of a Naturalist

Language Features-

The title 'Afternoons' suggests that **the young mothers are in the 'afternoons' of their lives where children have taken away their identities** and their lives are not their own.

"Summer is fading" **the natural imagery of 'summer' could represent the happy times in life** and the verb **'fading'** implies that **their life/happiness is coming to an end.**

"Setting free their children" **The children are being set 'free'. Freedom is something that these mothers crave.**

"Our Wedding, lying/Near the television:" **Lying' suggests that the wedding album is ignored just like their relationships with their partners. The enjambment also suggests the album is lying on the floor near the television, forgotten.** This is not the most important thing anymore in their lives.

"Something is pushing them/To the side of their own lives" **The pronoun 'something' suggests that the mothers do not realise who or what is 'pushing' them. The verb 'pushing' suggests that the mothers are being forced away from their own lives.** The most important thing in their lives is their children. The mothers are almost at the side now looking in on a life that isn't theirs; a life that they have no control over.

Dulce et Decorum Est by Wilfred Owen

Context- **Wilfred Owen was killed in action on 4 November 1918** exactly one week (almost to the hour) before the signing of the Armistice, **which ended the First World War.**

Structure-The **first stanza has a slow, turgid pace** due to the first sentence layering clause on top of clause. This **creates a turgid tone, reflecting the soldiers' feeling that the march will never end.** However, **the second stanza is fast paced** through **one word sentences and exclamation marks.** This reflects the sense of panic as the gas attack unfolds. The **pace slows again in the final stanza to reflect the feeling that war is never ending.** Owen uses the **second person ("you", "my friend") to address the reader personally,** creating an **uncomfortable and accusatory tone.** These final lines are clearly aimed at those in command.

Possible links to themes:

Impact of war – Mametz Wood, The Manhunt
Patriotism – The Soldier

THEMES-WAR

Language Features-

'Dulce et Decorum Est' **is taken from a Latin saying which was often quoted at the start of the First World War to encourage men to fight.** It means, 'It is sweet and honourable...', yet in **this poem Owen presents the harsh and unglamorous reality of trench warfare.**

The opening image of the soldiers, "**Bent double**" shows that **the soldiers are so exhausted that they cannot even stand up.**

The simile of "**coughing like hags,**" suggests they **have been physically broken by war.** Also suggests that the men are **prematurely old and weakened.**

Suddenly, the pace of the poem quickens with the warning '**Gas! GAS! Quick boys!,**' creating a sense of **urgency as the soldiers scramble around trying to fit their gas masks.** The use of the exclamation mark and capitalisation in "**Gas! GAS! Quick, boys!**" suggests the fear of the impending gas attack. **The stand-alone stanza, together with the verbs "guttering, choking, drowning"** reinforced the horror of the soldier caught in the attack. The verb "**drowning**" also suggests the **impenetrability of the gas and how it is invading his lungs.**

The repetition of "dreams" emphasises how war has infiltrated his sleep, how he can never have peace, not even when he is sleeping.

Final words – "the old Lie", allows Owen to highlight how war is not honourable or glorious, but cruel, degrading, dirty and horrifying.

Ozymandias by Percy Bysshe Shelley

Context- Shelley was considered to be a **'radical'** and **Ozymandias reflects this side of his character**. He is **writing about the dangers of thinking you are invincible**, a timeless message.

The **speaker meets an unknown 'traveller' who has journeyed from a land far away** and tells **the speaker his story**. On his travels **he came across a ruined and broken statue in the desert**. The **statue was once a huge monument to Ozymandias (Egyptian Pharaoh Ramses II) who was a tyrannical and harsh ruler**. The traveller implies that **Ozymandias has the statue made of himself** and the sculptor made it deliberately look cold and sneering.

Language Features-The **poem opens in the first person as the speaker tells of a "traveller" he has met**. The **use of the adjective "antique" suggests the land he is visiting is rich with history**.

- The verbs **"frown" and "wrinkled"**, the **"sneer of cold command" suggests that the leader's proud, arrogant and stern face is still "stamped" on the broken stone, even though he and the sculptor are both long dead**.
- The **king's proud boast which is an imperative, "Look on my works, ye Mighty and despair!" has been ironically disproved**.
- The **pronoun "Nothing beside remains", suggests that Ozymandias' works have crumbled, his civilisation is gone and has been turned to dust by the power of history and time**.
- Final words – **"The lone and level sands stretch far away," suggests how the broken statue is a monument to man's hubris. The poem is a statement about insignificance of human beings to the passage of time**.

THEMES-NATURE/POWER

Structure- **The poem is a sonnet, although it mixes the two main types of sonnet forms**. This could show the **broken nature of the statue and Ozymandias' rule**.

The majority of the poem is **through the voice of the 'traveller'**. As it has **no stanzas it is like a long story being told by travellers**.

Possible themes and links:

Power – Hawk Roosting, London

Nature and time – To Autumn, Mametz Wood

Mametz Wood by Owen Sheers

Context- **Mametz Wood was one of the bloodiest battles of World War One.** As part of the first Battle of the Somme in 1916, **soldiers of the Welsh division were ordered to take Mametz Wood**, the largest area of trees on the battlefield.

Owen Sheers grew up in Wales and wrote the poem in 2005 **as he felt their bravery and sacrifice was never really acknowledged.**

Structure: The **poem's structure is in regular three-line stanzas almost reflecting the neat linear pattern of a ploughed field.** However, **at times the length of the lines change, with longer lines breaking up the neat form.** This **disrupted pattern could reflect the 'chits of bone' rising out of the ground and disrupting our attempts to forget the past.**

Possible Themes and Links:

Impact of war, patriotism – Dulce et Decorum Est, A Wife in London, The Soldier

Fragility of soldiers/human life – Manhunt

THEMES-WAR

Language Features-The **poem opens with the phrase "For years afterwards..."**, which suggests that the horror of war, and this particular tragedy still affects us. The **opening lines emphasise how deadly the battle was as they found the remains for "years afterwards"**.

The language, such as "china plate", "broken bird's egg of a skull", the broken "mosaic of bone" used suggests that the soldiers were vulnerable and fragile. The **metaphors of a "china plate" and "broken bird's egg" emphasise how fragile and precious the human body is.**

The **imagery evokes the horror of war.** The **"socketed heads tilted back at an angle" brutally visualises the moment the men were shot and their screams of pain.**

Final words – **"their absent tongues"**, suggests that the soldiers have finally found a voice. **The final stanza combines both elements of the alternating stanzas and suggests that the poem is about offering redemption or justice, both for the dead and the land.**

Excerpt from the Prelude by William Wordsworth

Context- The poem describes the **sheer thrill and excitement of children as they skate in the gathering darkness of a frosty day**. Wordsworth uses **imagery of sound, sight and the natural world to bring alive the vivid and joyous experience**. The poem has a **nostalgic feel** and Wordsworth looks back at the **innocence and happiness of his childhood**.

Language Features-The **poem opens with imagery to do with winter, such as “frosty”, and suggests the premature end of a wintery day**. Images of warmth, such as “blaz’d” and “the sun” are contrasted with this.

The **use of verbs such as “wheel’d”, “hiss’d” and “flew”, such rapid movement**, while the noun “rapture” suggests the intense enjoyment of the boys skating on the lake.

The **natural world is represented in the poem, with “woodland pleasure”, and “leafless trees”, while the humans are also portrayed as animals**. The skaters are all “shod with steel” like “untir’d” horses, chasing the “hunted hare”.

There is **imagery to do with sounds, the pack is “bellowing”, the icy crags “tinkled like iron”, there is an “alien sound/Of melancholy”**.

Final words – **“in the west/The orange sky of evening died away”, which suggests the vivid image of a sunset as we return to the warm glow of the evening**.

THEMES-NATURE

Structure:

The **poem begins with the end of the day and the warm light of the setting sun reflecting in the cottage windows**.

In the **middle of the poem, the young Wordsworth ignores his mother’s calls to come in for his tea and instead delights at skating with the other boys from the village**. They are playing tag and chasing each other across the ice and this reminds Wordsworth of a pack of hounds hunting a fox.

The **end of the poem reflects the end of the day as the sun sets and the star appear**.

Possible Themes and Links:

The natural world, passing of time –
Death of a Naturalist, To Autumn