



## Summaries:

**Poppies** – This poem an alternative interpretation of bravery in conflict: it does not focus on a soldier in battle but on the mother who is left behind and must cope with his death. The narration covers her visit to a war memorial, interspersed with images of the soldier’s childhood and his departure for war.

**Bayonet Charge** - Describes the terrifying experience of ‘going over the top’: fixing bayonets (long knives) to the end of rifles and leaving a trench to charge directly at the enemy. The poem explores how brutal and hopeless war is.

**Charge of the Light Brigade** -Published six weeks after a disastrous battle against the Russians in the (unpopular) Crimean War. It describes a cavalry charge against Russians who shoot at the lightly-armed British with cannon from three sides of a long valley. Of the 600 hundred who started the charge, over half were killed, injured or taken prisoner.

**Remains** - Written to coincide with a TV documentary about those returning from war with PTSD. Based on Guardsman Tromans, who fought in Iraq in 2003. The speaker describes shooting a looter dead in Iraq and how it has affected him. This poem shows the reader that mental suffering can persist long after physical conflict is over.

**Exposure** - Speaker describes war as a battle against the weather and conditions. Imagery of cold and warm reflect the delusional mind of a man dying from hypothermia. Owen wanted to draw attention to the suffering, monotony and futility of war.

**War Photographer** - Tells the story of a war photographer developing photos at home in England: as a photo develops he begins to remember the horrors of war. He appears to be returning to a warzone at the end of the poem. Duffy conveys both the brutality of war and the indifference of those who might view the photos in newspapers and magazines: those who live in comfort and are unaffected by war.

**Kamikaze** - In World War 2, Japanese Kamikaze pilots would fly manned missiles into targets such as ships. -This poem explores a kamikaze pilot’s journey towards battle, his decision to return, and how he is shunned when he returns home.-As he looks down at the sea, the beauty of nature and memories of childhood make him decide to turn back

**Poppies** – Set around the time of the Iraq and Afghan wars, but the conflict is deliberately ambiguous to give the poem a timeless relevance to all mothers and families. There are hints of a critical tone about how soldiers can become intoxicated by the glamour or the military.

**Bayonet Charge** - Published in 1957, but most-likely set in World War 1. Hughes’ father had survived the battle of Gallipoli in World War 1, and so he may have wished to draw attention to the hardships of trench warfare. He contrasts the idealism of patriotism and reality of fighting and killing.

**Charge of the Light Brigade** - As Poet Laureate, Tennyson had to inspire the nation and portray the war in a positive light: propaganda. Although Tennyson glorifies the soldiers who took part, he also comments on a commander making a mistake: This was a controversial point to make in Victorian times when blind devotion to power was expected.

**Remains** - “These are poems of survivors – the damaged, exhausted men who return from war in body but never, wholly, in mind.” *Simon Armitage*. Poem coincided with increased awareness of PTSD amongst the military, and aroused sympathy amongst the public – many of whom were opposed to the war.

**Exposure** - Written in 1917 before Owen went on to win the Military Cross for bravery, and was then killed in battle in 1918: the poem has authenticity as it is written by an actual soldier. Of his work, Owen said: “My theme is war and the pity of war”. Despite highlighting the tragedy of war and mistakes of senior commanders, he had a deep sense of duty: “**not loath, we lie out here**” shows that he was not bitter about his suffering.

**War Photographer** - Duffy was inspired to write this poem by her friendship with a war photographer. She was intrigued by the challenge faced by these people whose job requires them to record terrible, horrific events without being able to directly help their subjects.-The location is ambiguous and therefore universal.

**Kamikaze** - -Cowardice or surrender was a great shame in wartime Japan. To surrender meant shame for you and your family, and rejection by society.



## Key Themes:

Conflict  
Reality of war  
Effects of war  
Nature  
Bravery  
Fear  
Death  
Patriotism  
Power

# KS4 Conflict Poetry Knowledge Organiser

## Key Quotes:

### Poppies

'I pinned one onto you lapel, crimped petals, spasms of paper red'

'A split second and you were away'

'Hoping to hear your playground voice catching on the wind'

### Bayonet Charge

'Suddenly he awoke and he was running'

'His foot hung statuary in mid-stride'

'King, honour, human dignity etc. dropped like luxuries in a yelling alarm'

### Remains

"Legs it up the road"

"Then he's carted off in the back of a lorry"

"he's here in my head when I close my eyes / dug in behind enemy line"

"his bloody life in my bloody hands"

### Exposure

"Our brains ache"

"the merciless iced east winds that knife us..."

'mad gusts tugging on the wire'

"But nothing happens"

### War Photographer

"All flesh is grass"

"He has a job to do"

"Running children in a nightmare heat" "Blood stained into a foreign dust"

### Kamikaze

"dark shoals of fish flashing silver"

- "they treated him as though he no longer existed" "was no longer the father we loved"

"He must have wondered which had been the better way to die"



## Methods:

**Enjambment** – when a line runs on without a full stop

**Caesura** – full stop in the middle of the line

**End-stopped line** – full stop at the end of a line

**Rhyme** – Words with the same sounds, usually at the end of lines

**Consonance** – repetition of consonant sounds.

**Alliteration** – Words close together that begin with the same sounding letter.

**Assonance** – Repetition of a vowel sound.

**Sibilance** – Repetition of an 's' sound

**Plosives** – p, d, g, or b sounds

**Allusion** – a reference to another work

**Volta** – change in tone

**Noun** – A word for a person, place or thing.

**Pronoun** – A word used when referring to someone or something.

**Verb** – A word used to describe an action, state or occurrence.

**Adjective** – A word to describe a noun.

**Adverb** – A word used to describe a verb.

**Simile** – A phrase comparing one thing to another, using *as* or *like*.

**Metaphor** – A phrase comparing one thing to another, by saying it is that thing.

**Personification** – A phrase giving human characteristics to a non-human object.

**Imagery** – Words or phrases that create visual images.

**Emotive language** – Words that create feeling and emotion. **Semantic field** – A group of words that follow the same theme.

**Rhetorical question** – A question that does not require an answer.

**Oxymoron** – A phrase using contradictory words.

**Onomatopoeia** – Words that create a sound.

**Symbolism** – The representation of ideas in images or motifs.

**Repetition** – A word or phrase that is used more than once.

**Perspective** – A point of view. Text can be written from a first (I), second (you) or third person (he/she/they) perspective.

**Juxtaposition** – Two concepts, themes, ideas or characters that are contrasting or opposite.

## Sentence Starters:

Both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
explore ideas about...

In the first poem the  
poet presents/portrays...

Quote (embedded)

This suggests to the reader...

In particular, the poet's use of  
(method) implies/emphasises...

The poet is revealing/highlighting  
(ideas/context)

In comparison, in the  
second poem the poet  
presents/portrays...

Quote (embedded)

This suggests to the  
reader...which is similar/different  
to...

In particular, the poet's use of  
(method) implies/emphasises...

Therefore, unlike/like the first  
poet, the is  
revealing/highlighting  
(ideas/context)



## Key Words:

**Stanza** – section of a poem

**Speaker** - the narrator, or person in the poem.

**Conflict** – a disagreement, usually resulting in violence

**Power** – Force or the ability to influence others

**Nature** – the physical word including plants, landscape etc.

**Critique** – a work that explores and criticises something

**Patriotism** – a love for one's country

**Pacifism** – opposition to all violence, including war

**Elegy** – an expression of grief

**Futility** - pointlessness

**Despair** – hopelessness  
Idealised – Represented as better than it is in reality

**Anti-war** – against war

**Nostalgia** – Looking back with fondness