

# Knowledge Organiser: Year 9 - War and Conflict poetry.

## Week 1: The Crimean War (1853 to 1856) and The Indian Rebellion (1857 - 1858).

**-Poem** A piece of writing in which the words are chosen for their beauty and sound and feelings and ideas are given particular intensity.

**-Poet** The term for the writer of a poem.

**-Speaker** Sometimes a poem isn't about the poet; a speaker is used instead.

**-Line** Instead of describing a list of words as a sentence, we call them lines, in poetry.

**-Stanza** Instead of describing a chunk of sentences as a paragraph, we call them stanzas, in poetry.

\*Stereotypically, military men were little more than "unknown soldiers" (very different to Owen's sentiments in WW1).

\*The poetry that came out of the Crimean War is often disregarded because of the view that it is written by ill-informed patriots.



## Week 2: World War One (1916 -1918)

**-Syllable** A syllable is a single, unbroken sound of a spoken or written word.

**-Monosyllabic** A word with only one syllable, like, 'dog', 'cat' and 'home'.

**-Polysyllabic** - A word with more than one syllable, like, 'happy', 'lovely' and 'tired'.

**-Propaganda** Information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.

\*The poems in 1914 and 1915 extoll the old virtues of honour, duty, heroism, and glory.

\*In the trenches, the poet became the soldier and the soldier became the poet. They wrote from what they lived and saw, not from an inherited idea of war or from reported experience.



## Week 3: World War One (1916 -1918) continued.

**-Imagery** This is when a poet uses visually descriptive words to create a clear picture of something in our minds.

**-Simile** This is where you make a comparison using the words, 'like' or 'as'. 'Her hair was as golden as the sun.'

**-Metaphor** This is where you make a comparison without using the words, 'like' or 'as'. 'Her hair was a golden sun.'

**-Ambiguity** This is where an idea in a poem is open to more than one interpretation.

\*As time wore on, the war's relentless horrors spawned darker reflections. Some, like English poet Wilfred Owen, saw it as their duty to reflect the grim reality of the war in their work.

## Week 4: World War Two (1939 - 1945).

**-Rhyme** Correspondence of sound between words or the endings of words, especially when these are used at the ends of lines of poetry.

**-Half-rhyme** This is where the stressed syllables of ending consonants match, however the preceding vowel sounds do not match.

**-Iambic Pentameter** A line of verse with five metrical feet, each consisting of one short (or unstressed) syllable followed by one long (or stressed) syllable.

**-Rhyming couplet** A rhyming pair of successive lines of verse, typically of the same length.

**-Refrain** This is where a phrase or whole line is repeated, at regular intervals, in different stanzas.

\*Earlier poems demonstrate a disbelief at the scope of the conflict, while later poems express a mournful acceptance and a turn toward individual voice and empathy.



## Week 5: World War Two (1939 - 1945).

**-Alliteration** This is where several words start with the same letter, like, 'Sizzling sausages spat in the pan'.

**-Onomatopoeia** This is where a word reflects the sound it makes, like, 'bang', 'hiss' and 'smacked'.

**-Caesura** A metrical pause or break in a verse where one phrase ends and another phrase begins.

**-Enjambment** This is where an idea in a line continues onto the line below without pause.

\*The poetry of World War II, as a whole, marks a deciding change in how many poets would view violence, sacrifice, and our responses to historical atrocities and trauma. This was largely due to the destructive nature of man, illustrated most clearly by the systematic extermination process established by Hitler, the dropping of the Atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and then the continued interest in developing the Hydrogen bomb, in 1950.

## Week 6: The Falklands War 2nd April - 14th June, 1982.

**-Assonance** When two or more words, close to one another repeat the same vowel sound, but start with different consonant sounds.

**-Consonance** The repetition of identical or similar consonants in neighbouring words whose vowel sounds are different.

**-Colloquialism** An informal word or expression that is more suitable for use in speech than in writing. It is usually linked to a specific region. In Newcastle, they call food, "scran", for example.

**-Slang** Refers to informal words and phrases that are used among a small group of people or a specific subculture.

\*Poetry from the 20<sup>th</sup> century displays a register that is more reflective of the informal patterns of everyday speech. Soldiers and poets begin to use colloquialisms and slang to express their views in their own personal voices.



## Week 7: The Afghanistan War (2001 - 2014).

**-Contrast** This is where opposing concepts or ideas are used, like, 'night and day', 'fast and slow' and 'good and evil'.

**-Protest poetry** This refers to works that address to real socio-political issues and express objection against them.

**-Conduit** Something or someone that carries information.

\* 'In war,' Aeschylus wrote, 'truth is the first casualty.' The poetry of WW1 kept this casualty breathing and the poetry of the 21<sup>st</sup> century continues to be more truthful and raw.

\*The last decade has seen a noticeable increase in war poetry written by poets working from primary sources - from interviews with or testimonials by those who have experienced war first hand. The poet becomes a conduit for another's voice over their own.

