Power and Conflict Poetry – Knowledge Organiser

Remains by Simon Armitage

Exposure by Wilfrid Owen

Poppies by Jane Wei Fraser

Content, Meaning and Purpose
- Written to coincide with a TV documentary about the withdrawal of British forces from Iraq. Based on Guardsman Tromans, who fought in Iraq in 2003.
- It was 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.
- The narration covers her visit to a war memorial, interspersed with images of the soldier’s childhood and his departure for war.

Content, Meaning and Purpose
- Themes: War, Nature, Bravery, Patriotism
- Two soldiers; one is killed, the other killed, injured or taken prisoner.
- The poem can be divided into six parts, each of which has its own theme:

Forms and Structure
- This poem describes a battle against the weather and conditions.
- Enjambment maintains the momentum of the charge.
- The poem’s pace.
- Repetition of some words have a similar sound effect.
- The language is powerful and poetic.

Themes:
- War, Nature, Bravery, Patriotism
- The poem is ordered (whilst he is flying on
- The two soldiers; one is killed, the other killed, injured or taken prisoner.
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Ozymandias by Percy Bysshe Shelley

**Themes:** Power, Nature, Decay, Pride

**My Last Duchess by Robert Browning**

**Themes:** Power, Pride, Control, Jealousy, Status

**Tissue by Imtiaz Dharker**

**Themes:** Power of Nature, Control, Identity, Fate

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**Context, Meaning and Purpose**

The narrator meets a traveller who tells him about a distant place where a vast and lonely desert extends far beyond the horizon's bound. This place is a testament to the power and pride of a former king of kings. The desert is vast, lonely, and lasts far longer than a statue. The narrator is interested in emotion and the power of nature. He is curious about how to reconcile the greatness of a statue with the despair of a man who once ruled over it. The narrator is also intrigued by the contrast between the vastness of the desert and the small size of his statue and 'despair', however they should be seen.

**Language**

- **Neer of cold command**
  - The statue was arrogant, this is reflected by the sculptor, the traveller and then the narrator.
- **Look on works, ye Mighty, and despair!**
  - The narrator meets a traveller who tells him about a place that has changed over time, but the memory of greatness lingers on the horizon. The traveller speaks with a sneer of cold command.

**Form and Structure**

- **A sonnet (14 lines) but with an unconventional structure...**
  - The narrative describes how the once-great statue was created and how it was received. The statue stands as a symbol of the power and pride of a former king of kings.
- **‘Looking as if she was alive’**
  - The duke's comment on the painting of his wife is a contrast with his own inferior panic. The duke's words and actions are a reminder of his own mortality and the fleeting nature of power and pride.

**Content, Meaning and Purpose**

- **Ozymandias**
  - The metaphor of a king of kings is shown to be a common one throughout history. The poet uses the contrast between the power and pride of a king and the vastness of the desert to show the insignificance of human power and pride.
- **The narrative describes how the once-great statue was created and how it was received. The statue stands as a symbol of the power and pride of a former king of kings.**
- **The final line of the poem reveals the fear of nature’s power.**

**Language**

- **No are trees which my prove course?**
  - The narrator is struck by the beauty and power of nature, and how it contrasts with human attempts to create lasting works.
- **Nay! is this a palace?**
  - The narrator is curiously juxtaposed against the vastness of the desert and the small size of his statue and 'despair', however they should be seen.

**Form and Structure**

- **First-person narrative – creates a sense that it is a personal poem.**
  - The regular rhythm and enjambment add to the effect of nature and social force.
- **Bold use of punctuation to create pauses or stops.**
  - The repetition of similar vowel sounds creates a sense of the repetition and the repetitiveness of nature.

**Content, Meaning and Purpose**

- **The duke's sneer of cold command**
  - The duke is arrogant, this is reflected by the way he speaks with a sneer of cold command. His words are a contrast with his own inferior panic.
- **Looking as if she was alive**
  - The duke's comment on the painting of his wife is a contrast with his own inferior panic. The duke's words and actions are a reminder of his own mortality and the fleeting nature of power and pride.

**Language**

- **Hereof shall men shall speak**
  - The name of the river is shown as a symbol of the power and pride of a former king of kings.

**Poetic Techniques**

- **Rhyme scheme**
  - The use of rhyme in the poem is shown as a way to add to the effect of nature and social force.
- **Monologue**
  - The use of a monologue in the poem is shown as a way to add to the effect of nature and social force.

**Assessment Objectives**

**When poems have similarities**

- **Both poems convey/ address...**
  - The use of language is shown as a way to add to the effect of nature and social force.
- **Both poets explore/ present...**
  - The use of imagination is shown as a way to add to the effect of nature and social force.

**When poems have differences**

- **Although...**
  - The use of rhyme in the poem is shown as a way to add to the effect of nature and social force.
- **Whereas...**
  - The use of rhyme in the poem is shown as a way to add to the effect of nature and social force.

**Unlike...**

**Key themes and connections: poems that you might choose to compare**

- Both poems are about the power and pride of a former king of kings.
- Both poems use language that is shown as a way to add to the effect of nature and social force.
- Both poems use rhyme that is shown as a way to add to the effect of nature and social force.

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**London by Blake William Wordsworth**

**Themes:** Power of Nature, Fear, Childhood

**Tissue by Imtiaz Dharker**

**Themes:** Power, Inequality, Loss, Anger

**Content, Meaning and Purpose**

- **Content.**
  - The narrator is describing a walk around London and how he is saddened by the sights and sounds of poverty.
- **Meaning.**
  - The poet addresses the reader directly and shows that the Duke's comments have a much more sinister tone.

**Language**

- **A dramatic monologue, there is a first-person narrator**
  - The language is shown as a way to add to the effect of nature and social force.
- **Using punctuation to create pauses or stops.**
  - The repetition of similar vowel sounds creates a sense of the repetition and the repetitiveness of nature.

**Form and Structure**

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**Content, Meaning and Purpose**

- **The poem was published in 1794, and of time of great poverty is many parts of London.**
  - William Blake was a poet and artist. Much of his work was influenced by his radical political views: he believed in social and racial equality.

**Language**

- **Anecdotal**
  - The language is shown as a way to add to the effect of nature and social force.
- **Tone**
  - The language is shown as a way to add to the effect of nature and social force.

**Poetic Techniques**

- **Rhyme scheme**
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