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| **War Poem 1: The Manhunt**   * Written about Eddie Beddoes a Bosnian peacekeeper who was shot on a peacekeeping mission * Bosnia was recovering from a 3 year war and the UN forces were there to assist * He was 19 * His injuries changed his life * He endured pain, physical injury and mental suffering * He suffered post traumatic shock (PTSD) * No help was available for sufferers of PTSD * Balloons popping would cause flashbacks to the attack * His wife Laura helped him overcome his suffering | **War Poem 2: The Soldier**   * The poem was written as a form of propaganda * Brookes had not been to war or seen the devastating impact it could have * The poem depicts what he thinks will happen in WW1 * Written in 1914 the year WW1 broke out * Brookes died in 1915 while in the Navy but of blood poisoning * Pre-war optimism comes through in the poem * Over 20 million men lost their lives * Bloodiest conflict which was considered to be the war to end all wars * Shows a naivety in society at the time |
| **War Poem 3: Dulce et Decorum Est**   * Sarcastic and realistic depiction of the war * Owen died at 25 * He was injured and sent home but returned to the front line to continue fighting * Gas was a particularly horrific way to die * Trench warfare meant months on the frontline for men * Brutal and agonising * Barbed wire tore men to shreds on their own side and on the oppositions side * Conditions were appalling with men contracting trench foot, sleeping in muddy dug outs and not having clean/dry clothes and footwear. Lice were rife and supplies were limited. | **War Poem 4: Mametz Wood**   * Sheers is a welsh poet who used the historic battle at Mametz wood to create the poem * Mametz Wood was a heavily fought over wooded area during the battle of the Somme * The Battle of the Somme was one of the bloodiest battles recorded with 4,000 casualties and 600 dead * The battle for Mametz Wood was supposed to only take hours but lasted days * Men were sent walking to their slaughter * The welsh were successful, with heavy casualties, however not really commended for their bravery * Took place in 1916 * Dance macabre was depicted in art and supposed to make viewers reflect on their souls |
| **War Poem 5: A Wife in London**   * His first wife influenced his writing greatly * Trained as an architect after leaving school at 16 * London was enveloped in a thick fog in the 1880s which lasted for days and made visibility impossible * Hardy is writing about the Boer War in South Africa which was between the British and the Boer settlers * The war was unmatched with over 400,000 British troops fighting in the war * 22,000 Boer and 25,000 British men lost their lives * Many of the Boer troops were untrained and young * Eventually the Boers surrendered | **Nature Poems: To Autumn**   * Keats is a romantic poet * Romantics believed in the power of beauty and that emotion and imagination were hugely important * He died young * His girlfriend Fanny Brawne both inspired and tormented him * He was ambiguous about the amount of time he spent thinking about her |

Context guide for the Eduqas Anthology Main points to remember:

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| **Nature Poems 2: Hawk Roosting**   * Hughes was hugely inspired by animals and nature due to his Yorkshire childhood * The hawk could be a metaphor for religion and its place in society * Hughes questions creation and the way that it evolved * The poem was published in the 60s * 'Lupercal'. The collection of poems in which Hawk Roosting was published takes its title from an ancient, pre-Roman festival celebrating spring | **Nature Poems 3: Excerpt from The Prelude**   * William Wordsworth (1770 – 1850) * born in the Lake District which hugely influences his writing and this poem is about how the power of nature influenced him as a child. * He was an influential Romantic poet. * His poems along with his sister Dorothy and Samuel Taylor Coleridge's collection The Lyrical Ballads marked the start of the romantic movement. * Romantics changed the way people thought about art and writing. * This poem is autobiographical. |
| **Nature Poems 4: Death of a Naturalist**   * Heaney won many prizes for this collection * An Irish poet * He was said to want to highlight big ideas through the poem * Could have been influenced by the way perspective changes as you grow older * He is influenced by nature and experiences with it | **Poem of Place 1: Ozymandius**   * **Percy Bysshe Shelley** (1792-1822) A Romantic poet influenced by beauty and truth**.** * Born in Horsham, Sussex, he came from a wealthy family * Aetheist doesn’t believe in God * He eloped and married aged 19. Harriet died * Three years later, Shelley left for Europe with another woman, Mary Godwin (who later became **Mary Shelley** and wrote Frankenstein). Shelley had children by both women. * Shelley was a 'radical' *Ozymandias* may reflect this side of his character. Literal meaning is the Statue of Ozymandias (another name for the Egyptian pharaoh Rameses II) it can be read as a criticism of people or systems that become huge and believe themselves to be invincible. |
| **Poem of Place 2: Living Space**   * Imtiaz Dharker is a contemporary poet who was born in Pakistan and grew up in Scotland. * She is also a film director and has scripted a number of documentaries in India, supporting work with women and children * Dharker's intimate knowledge of Mumbai is evident in this poem. She works to raise awareness of issues in other countries. * Set in the slums this highlights the difficulties of poverty | **Poem of Place 3: London**   * Published in 1794. * The *Songs of Innocence* section contains poems which are positive in tone and celebrate love, childhood and nature. * *The Songs of Experience* poems are obviously intended to provide a contrast, and illustrate the effects of modern life on people and nature. Dangerous industrial conditions, child labour, prostitution and poverty are just some of the topics Blake explores. * Preoccupied with the Industrial Revolution * In 1789, the French people revolted against the monarchy and aristocracy, using violence and murder to overthrow those in power. * Seen as a model for how ordinary, disadvantaged people could seize power. * Blake alludes to the revolution in *London*. |
| **Poem 1: Valentine**   * Carol Ann Duffy (born 1955) is a Scottish poet, was the first female (and first Scottish) [Poet Laureate](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english_literature/poetry_wjec/treatmentofwomen/valentine/revision/1/). * Born in Glasgow, she moved with her family to Stafford when she was 7, where she was educated. * She wrote poetry from an early age, and was first published at the age of 15. * Her poetry has been the subject of controversy. * Duffy often tackles difficult subjects, encouraging the reader to explore alternative points of view. * Duffy’s poetry is often feminist in its themes and approach. | **Love Poem 2: As Imperceptibly as grief**   * By the 1860s, Dickinson lived in almost complete isolation from the outside world, but actively maintained many correspondences and read widely. * Dickinson’s poetry was heavily influenced by the Metaphysical poets of seventeenth-century England, * Also influenced by the Book of Revelation and her upbringing in a Puritan New England town, which encouraged a Calvinist, orthodox, and conservative approach to Christianity. |
| **Love Poem 3: She walks in beauty**   * A leading poet of the Romantics. * Romanticism was a general artistic movement (literature, music, the visual arts, etc.) which dominated European culture from the late-18th century until the mid-19th century. Romanticism had many key features among which were: * a recognition of the influence of the senses and of personal emotion * that the heart (emotion) is considered more powerful than the head (logic/reason) * an understanding of the deep power of the natural world * All of these are features of Byron’s poem. * Byron is believed to have been inspired to write the poem after seeing a woman with very good looks at a fashionable London party. * Byron himself had many stormy personal relationships. He was famously described as 'mad, bad and dangerous to know'. * From the collection *Hebrew Melodies* in April 1815 and was intended to be set to music of a religious nature. | **Love Poem 4: Sonnet 43**   * 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. * *Sonnet 43* is part of a longer sonnet sequence of 44 sonnets called Sonnets from the Portuguese. |
| **Love Poem 5: Afternoons**   * **Philip Larkin** was a significant 20th century poet whose work is characterised by detailed observations of everyday life and relationships. * His style is melancholic (the tone can be downbeat), although he is also famous for **celebrating the ordinary** * He did not marry, had no children, never went abroad and worked as a librarian at Hull University for over 30 years. | **Love Poem 6: Cozy Apologia**   * American poet, Rita Dove is married to fellow-writer Fred Viebahn and *Cozy Apologia* seems to be an affectionate tribute to him. * he poem notes details of a couple's domestic life as writers, 'Twin desks, computers, hardwood floors'. * It is set against the arrival of Hurricane Floyd, a powerful storm which hit the east coast of the USA in 1999. * This factual, real-life context supports the idea this is an autobiographical poem. |