

Shelley: Ozymandias

Context: Romantic poet = Hated Government & Loved nature. Based on Egyptian pharaoh Ramesses II and his cruel totalitarian leadership.

Theme: Power of nature, abuse of power, pride. Power doesn't last forever.

Quotes:

1) "Sneer of Cold command"

= alliteration (harsh sounds emphasise his cruel dictatorship).

2) "Two vast and trunkless legs of stone"

Allegory (Nature has taken over the statue and diminished his power and legacy). Irony. The speaker mocks the once powerful leader. His 'shattered visage' in a barren, desert wasteland.

3) "My name is Ozymandias King of Kings."

Shows him dominance. Repetition of noun 'King' accentuates his authority.

Dramatic monologue. Sonnet. Iambic Pentameter. Mocks the subject matter, traditionally regarding <3 poetry. He is no longer loved or remembered and honoured...

William Wordsworth: The Prelude

Context: Romantic poet. Loved nature so much he wanted to write an epic poem about it.

Themes: Conflict between nature and humans. Power of nature.

Quotes:

1) "One summer evening (led by her) I found/ A little boat tied to a willow tree." Nature is personified as someone the young boy has a positive relationship with. Juxtaposition of little boat and willow tree. Despite being made of wood, still physically stronger and metaphorically more powerful than humans can ever be.

2) "Heaving through the water like a swan." Simile to show ease with nature and water. Connotations of innocence could be a metaphor for young boy's innocence.

3) "A huge peak, black and huge." Juxtaposition with colour white. Volta could reflect how nature can turn against us. Deeper: may symbolise transition from childhood to manhood.

Blank verse: shows unruly nature. Iambic pentameter. Picks up pace after Volta with a range of caesuras used to show how young boy cannot control boat.

William Blake: London

Context: Romantic poet. Anti-government & religion. Loved nature & not industrialisation. Wanted to end Divine Right of Kings and Queens. London= Poverty and inequality. Inspired by French Revolution (think Les Miz!).

Theme: Abuse of power. Conflict between rulers and subjects.

Quotes:

1) "Mark in every face" = Repetition of every to show extent and scale of suffering 'Mark' is a metaphor for how everything is becoming owned by the rich in society and how everyone is physically affected.

1) "Mind-forged manacles" = metaphor for people who don't think independently for themselves. They are governed and controlled by above forced. Verb 'forged' significant.

1) "Every black'ning church appals" = Symbolic of the death & evil of Church. Blake believed that religion gave poor people hope and power and hope kept them from doing anything about their impoverished situation.

Dramatic monologue. Four stanzas with alternative rhyme reflecting walking through streets.

Robert Browning: My Last Duchess

Context: Based on Duke of Ferrara and his dissatisfaction with wife.

Themes: Abuse of power. Power of mankind. Pride.

Quotes:

1) "That's my last Duchess painted on the wall."

Possessive pro-noun implicates ownership and authority. 'Last' implies it wasn't his first and won't be his last. He still feels he owns her.

2) "Half-flush that dies along her throat."

Allusions to him killing her. Lexical field of death. Half flush could also have sexual connotations.

3) "A heart—how shall I say?— too soon made glad, Too easily impressed."

Implicates promiscuity (sexuality) of his wife. Caesuras used to show he is thinking carefully of what to say. Rhetorical question demonstrates he's at rage with himself and trying to avoid showing jealousy or rage.

Dramatic monologue, enjambment and caesuras reflect speaker taking visitor on a tangent. Iambic pentameter used to show Duke's love is dark and sinister.

Tennyson: Charge of the Light Brigade

Context: Crimean War. Battle of Balaclava. Miscommunication, however men still followed orders. Tennyson wanted to honour.

Theme: War and conflict. Power of men. Authority and leadership.

Quotes:

1) "Half a league..." Repetition (anaphora) and dactylic dimeter throughout to mimic the sounds of the horses. Lexical field of distance emphasises the length of strenuous journey to their death.

2) "Valley of Death/ mouth of hell": Biblical allusions. Metaphor for the inevitability of their death. They are being swallowed up. They are positioned closer to hell than their Russian agitators. Personifies their bold, brave death.

3) "Honour the Light Brigade" Imperative command shows that poet is demanding respect for lost heroes. Wants legacy to stay on.

Six stanzas and dactylic dimeter to show the changing nature and pace of battle.

Wilfred Owen: Exposure

Context: Personal experience of war. Soldier and officer in WW1. Tried to spread truth about war and the horrors of soldier's conditions.

Themes: Conflict between man and nature. Warfare.

Quotes

1) "merciless iced east winds that knife us..." Personification of the weather. Adjective 'merciless' shows nature shows no sympathy. 'Knife' has dangerous connotations.

2) "What are we doing here?" Rhetorical question represents fragility of soldiers and highlights hopelessness. Confusion over the actual purpose of war.

3) "Sudden successive flights of bullets streak the silence."

Sibilance and harsh alliteration show the wind and violence from opposing soldiers working together to attack the men. The harsh sounds mimic the bullets.

Ellipses, caesuras and repetition to mimic the wait for battle.

Seamus Heaney: Storm on the Island

Context: Grew up on farming community, set around isolated, exposed cottage near the sea.

Themes: Conflict between nature and man.

Quotes

1) "The wizened earth has never troubled us" Personifies the weather like an old friend we can rely. Could be seen as a metaphor for god and his power.

2) "Spits like a tame cat." Simile used simply to describe something powerful and majestic. Undermines the strength of the weather. It is only to be feared if we let it.

3) "It is a huge nothing that we fear" Oxymoron to suggest that our fear is a paradox. Man should not fear the invisible wind.

Blank verse: Unrhymed. Caesura used to show conversational tone.

Ted Hughes: Bayonet Charge

Context: Soldiers 'going over the top.' Hughes was a former serviceman.

Themes: Man's impact on nature. Warfare.

Quotes

1) "The patriotic tear that had brimmed in his eye/ Sweating like molten iron" Juxtaposed ideas of nobility with the dehumanisation by using the simile to compare soldiers to metal

2) "In what cold clockwork of the stars and the nations..."

Metaphor for his actions being more like a machine than human. Trivialised war to a game of clockwork soldiers.

3) "Threw up a yellow hare that rolled like a flame" Metaphor for a coward moving away. Simile 'like a flame' Hare could be another soldier shot. Fragility of life.

Enjambment adds to chaos of battlefield.

Simon Armitage: Remains

Context: Modern warzone and effects of aftermath of war (PTSD). Style as though he is speaking to a therapist and cannot rid himself of memories.

Themes: Warfare. Conflict. Power of man. Effects of war.

Quotes

- 1) **"His blood-shadow stays on the street"** Metaphor for legacy of war on countries and people. Also metaphorically cannot wipe the blood/ guilt away from speaker.
- 2) **"sun-stunned, sand smothered land"** Sibilance gives the impression of a sinister nightmare and stagnant state that the speaker is stuck in
- 3) **"His bloody life in my bloody hands."** A pun. Double meaning- He may be covered in blood literally but deeper, he could be still at conflict in his mind at killing an innocent man. Ends on a sense of despair with no conclusion.

Dramatic monologue, 8 stanzas, a lot of caesura and enjambment to show a conversational tone but suggesting he has to pause to speak due to horror of his actions. Ends on a rhyming couplet. Shorter stanza could reflect how he can no longer speak or go on.

Jane Weir: Poppies

Context: Poppies are a symbol for peace during the aftermath of war. They are a symbol for memory. Modern conflict. A mother mourning her son.

Themes: Conflict and warfare. Effects of war.

Quotes:

- 1) **"I pinned one onto your lapel, crimped petals"** The pro-noun 'I' and 'your' emphasise the intimacy of their relationship. Sensory language used throughout to emphasise her memories.
- 2) **"To the front door, threw it open"** Symbolic of letting her son free and her acceptance of his choice.
- 3) **"The dove pulled freely against the sky, an ornamental stitch. I listened,"** The dove symbolises the boy's innocence and the caesuras imply the speaker is choking, holding back her tears.

Dramatic monologue: Four stanzas and no rhyme scheme. Enjambment to add to natural tone of Mother's voice. .

Carol Ann Duffy: War Photographer

Context: A war photographer developing photographs and may be experiencing PTSD as a result.

Themes: Conflict. Warfare. Effects of war.

- 1) **"Spools of suffering"** Sibilance emphasises the dark nature of the photos and content. There is suffering in the photos and suffering of the subject of the poem.
- 2) **"All flesh is grass."** Emphasises the fragility of life and earth. Life is as meaningless as mowing the lawn.
- 3) **"A half-formed ghost"** Metaphor for the faint origins of the photo and the slow, painful death of the man. It could also relate to the photographer's memories and how they are etched in his mind.

4 stanzas with chaotic rhyming structure which represent the chaos of war and the subject's mind. However, he is attempting to make order out of chaos, creating 'ordered rows.'

Imtiaz Dharker: Tissue

Context: Point of view of someone looking out at conflict and modern war. Terrorism, destruction, politics.

Themes: Conflict. Power of man. Corruption of man.

Quotes:

- 1) **"Paper that lets the light shine through"** Symbolic of hope for the future in a world devastated by war.
- 2) **"What was paid by credit card might fly our lives like paper kites"** Our reliance on money and material wealth. The simile 'flying kites' suggests that if we changed our frame of mind we could regain childhood peace.
- 3) **"Trace a grand design with living tissue"** Biblical allusions to gain a sense of spiritual fulfilment. We should be joined by tissue and not segregated by conflict.

Dramatic monologue. Enjambment to create a human and calm tone.

Carol Rumens: The Emigree

Context: Poem explores the conflict between her homeland and her current country. It explores modern examples of emigration and refugees.

Themes: The power of memory. Conflict through warfare.

Quotes

- 1) "**But my memory of it is sunlight-clear**" Pathetic fallacy to create positive image which juxtaposes with her understanding of her country as an adult. Her country is tarnished by its war-torn legacy but her memories are wholly positive. Sunlight motif repeated throughout.
- 2) "**but my city comes to me in its own white plane.**" Her country is personified to show their positive relationship. Colourful imagery symbolises her innocence and purity of her memories and nostalgia.
- 3) "**They accuse me of being dark...**" Repetition of 'accusations' gives a sinister tone to her oppression in her new city. The contrast between light and darkness could implicate her loss of a sense of identity.

Dramatic monologue. Three stanzas, repetition of 'sunlight' attempting to illuminate her memory.

John Agard: Checkin Out me History

Context: Voices and experiences of identity through history. Examples of important black figures throughout history

Themes: The power of identity, the power of memory. The conflict of contrasting identities.

Quotes:

- 1) "**Dem tell me**" constant barrage of learning by rote without insight. Contrast between him and the people in his new country.
- 2) "**Blind me to me own identify**" Restrictive verbs create the idea that the history he is taught is not his history and is not reflective of his heritage.
- 3) "**Hopeful stream to freedom river.**" Beautiful natural imagery suggests that the power of this 'Nanny' figure and how culturally, we respect figures for varying reasons

Dramatic monologue: irregular rhyme with short enjambment to demonstrate the speaker's anger. It captures the rhythm of his Caribbean accent and could also represent a drumbeat of Caribbean music and verbal passing on of stories.

Beatrice Garland: Kamikaze

Context: During WW2, it was considered an honour in Japan to die for your country. Kamikaze pilots were to commit suicide and die by flying into their targets.

Themes: Conflict of time. Conflict between choices and culture.

Quotes:

- 1) "**a figure of eight**" Symbolic of the repetitive cycle of being trapped by destiny. A metaphor for the honour and glory.
- 2) "**The loose silver of whitebait and once a tuna the dark prince**" Connotes a sense of childhood joy but also fish could represent the pilots' fate. Eventually they will be caught. He is caught in the net of mankind.
- 3) "**He must have wondered which had been the better way to die**" Highlight the conflict that he already died in the eyes of his family.

Italics to indicate change of speakers between daughter and pilot. Consistent structure represents drifting up and down being unable to make a choice and the helplessness of actions.