

Power and Conflict Knowledge Organiser – Essential Knowledge

Assessment: You will need to compare two poems from the cluster focussing on a specific theme. One of the poems will be printed for you. The second chosen poem will need to be written about from memory.

Power	<i>Ozymandias</i> by Percy Shelley about the crumbling of a statue of an Egyptian pharaoh. Shelley did not believe in God or like monarchy. <i>The powerful are cruel and arrogant.</i>	<p>“sneer of cold command” painful alliteration “Look on my works, ye Mighty and Despair” arrogance of power “the decay of that colossal wreck” – time is the actual power Uses a corrupted sonnet to show he does not like power</p>	<p><i>Tissue</i> – Imtiaz Dharker writes about how paper is an effective metaphor for being human. Friends and family are more important than money and buildings. <i>Being human is a fragile experience – there is power in memories.</i></p> <p><i>My Last Duchess</i> – Robert Browning writes about how a man who has killed his previous wife but has preserved her as a painting. Browning cared about the rights of women in the Victorian era. <i>Women lack power and men abuse their power.</i></p>
	<i>London</i> by William Blake. He saw around him the poverty and social problems caused by the Industrial Revolution. <i>The powerless are ignored and abandoned.</i>	<p>“Mind-forged manacles” – trapped “marks of weakness, marks of woe” repetition “hapless soldier’s sigh runs in blood down palace walls” uncaring authority ABAB Rhyme is like a person walking around the city</p>	<p><i>Emigree</i> – Carol Rumens writes about an immigrant who has moved countries and really misses their homeland. <i>Migrants are often powerless.</i></p> <p><i>Checking Out Me History</i> – John Agard writes in Caribbean Patois to argue that black history has not been taught enough in schools. <i>Non-white history is excluded by the powerful.</i></p>
War	<i>Remains</i> by Simon Armitage is about Guardsman Tromans who fought in Iraq (2003). <i>War is violent and, after it ends, traumatic.</i>	<p>“His bloody life in my bloody hands” – intertextuality, guilty conscience “tossed his guts” – colloquial ‘he bursts again through the doors of the bank... the drink and drugs won’t flush him out’ – cannot escape memories Shifts from memory at war to the difficulty of living at home</p>	<p><i>Bayonet Charge</i> – Ted Hughes writes about his father’s experience in World War One. <i>War is damaging to nature and confusing.</i></p> <p><i>Charge of the Light Brigade</i> – Alfred Tennyson writes about the mistakes that led to the deaths of British horsemen in the Crimean War (1854). <i>The impact of war is felt most by the regular soldiers.</i></p> <p><i>War Photographer</i> – Carol Ann Duffy writes about how the photographer Don McCullin has been traumatised by a career taking photographs in war zones. <i>War is traumatising for observers.</i></p>
	<i>Kamikaze</i> by Beatrice Garland is about suicide pilots from Japan in World War Two. <i>War involves indoctrination and, after it ends, guilt.</i>	<p>“little fishing boats strung out like bunting on a green-blue translucent sea” beauty of nature “Which had been the better way to die” guilt “head full of powerful incantations” indoctrination Long sentences (memory) then short sentence (damage)</p>	<p><i>Poppies</i> – Jane Weir describes a mother who is saying goodbye to her son who is off to fight in a recent war. She is worried he will not return and he will be added to war memorials. <i>War affects families as well as soldiers.</i></p> <p><i>Exposure</i> – Wilfred Owen write about how his experience as a soldier in the trenches in World War One. <i>War is pointless and repetitive. Nature is also powerful and uncaring.</i></p>
Nature	<i>Storm on the Island</i> by Seamus Heaney. He is a Northern Irish poet who often writes about nature. <i>Nature is far more powerful than humans.</i>	<p>“we are prepared: we build our houses squat.” Monosyllabic The spray/wind: “spits like a tame cat turned savage” “It is a huge nothing we fear” Sibilance s sound is painful like the storm.</p>	<i>Prelude</i> – William Wordsworth writes about a time when he steals a boat. Wordsworth is a Romantic poet who focussed on the natural world and imagination. <i>The memory shows us how powerful and terrifying nature can be.</i>

Compare how poets present effects of war in War Photographer and one other poem.

Biblical allusion - "All flesh is grass."
human life is fragile, easily destroyed

Big Idea 1:
Brutality and physical effects

Colloquial language
"tossed his guts"
– active participant, soldiers become dehumanised

War Photographer

Effects of war

Remains

Trauma of war appears more painful at home: "Solutions slop in trays beneath his hands, which did not tremble then though seem to now"

Big Idea 2: trauma and psychological effects

Intertextuality:
"His bloody life in my bloody hands"
– can't wash away the memory like in Macbeth

Structure of Answer:

1. **Thesis and Introduction** – Introduce your big ideas about both poems using the key words in the question
2. **Big Idea 1** – Write one or two paragraphs on your first big idea. Ensure you include textual detail from both poems. Discuss the effect of methods and the influence of history.
3. **Big Idea 2** - Repeat 2 with your second big idea.
4. **Conclusion** - End your answer with a summary of the big ideas in both texts.