

Wilfred Owen's poetry overtly overlies the theme of the pity of war. He uses poetry terms and techniques in the endeavour to explore the horror of war. "Dulce Et Decorum Est", "Anthem For A Doomed Youth" and "Spring Offensive" all offer powerful concepts of war and give the reader the opportunity to live the war experience through strong poetic language.

"Dulce Et Decorum Est" is a poem written to shock the audience out of their propaganda-induced complacency about the war. It is the description of a gas-attack scene and presents the image of a soldier dying because he can't get his mask on quick enough. We feel the soldiers' exhaustion as they "trudge" "like old beggars under sacks" and we ~~feel~~ witness the tragedy of war when young, fit men are reduced to "coughing like hags". The use of the simile "obscene as cancer" and the hyperbole "men marched asleep" offer poetry techniques that shock the reader out of their romantic view of war. In the second stanza, "Gas, Gas. Quick boys" changes the tone and with the use of "boys" we are reminded of youth and the horror of war.



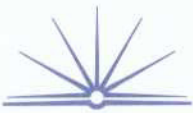
Personification is presented in "Clumsy helmets" and a juxtaposition of "ecstasy of fumbling" serve to create a horrible image to the viewers which is made worse in "a devil's sick of sin". "Dulce Et Decorum Est" is possibly one of Owen's most famous poems and it is this poem which most noticeably casts away the romantic notion of war which is not "the old lie" as many would have us believe.

"Anthem For A Doomed Youth" is a cry against the inhumanity and indignity of war. ~~Looking at~~ the title ~~we can~~ shows the poem's concept. An anthem is usually a song of praise but it is opposed when we realize the death of youth and the tragedy of war. The comparison of religion vs slaughter in "what passing bells for those who die as cattle" and the effect of the iambic pentameter, has a powerful effect on the readers by comparing soldiers dying like cattle. The sacrifice of Youth is another important concept that comes up in this poem. The words "boys and girls" adds to the readers impression of the tragedy of war. The agglomeration of poetry techniques in "stuttering, rifles, rapid, rattle"



present us with alliteration, onomatopoeia and personification which presents to ~~the~~ ^{the} readers an experience of the sounds of battle. ~~And~~ the "choirs" are replaced with "The shrill demented choirs of wailing shells" which illustrates the lack of burial service for these soldiers who died honourable. The tone of the octet is changed with the tone of the sestet when the image is brought back to the home front and the mourning of those closest to the soldiers. "The pallor of the girls brows shall be their pall" yet again demonstrates Owen's bitterness at the lack of burial service. Anthem For A Doomed Youth is possibly the most famous war sonnet written and explores the horror of ~~war~~ war through ~~the~~ for the soldiers and the people on the home front.

"Spring Offensive" is a poem about the allied offensive of 1917. The title offers a juxtapositioning of terms and this poem illustrates the effects on the survivors of war. Descriptive language sets an image of soldiers "halted" against a hill where they "carelessly slept". But we are constantly reminded of the proximity



of war with "line of imminent grass". The 4th stanza sees a change of tone and "like a cold gust" initiates the offensive. ~~What~~ What occurs is presented through descriptive, horrific imagery when the soldiers are confronted with the enemy. What was the "stark blank sky" is now the "sky burned with fury against them" and "the earth set sudden cups for their blood" all illustrate ~~how~~ what the soldiers experienced and this adds to the reader's impression of the powerful tragedy of war. The last stanza makes reference to the returned soldiers who have conducted "superhuman inhumanities". This oxymoron makes us feel pity and sorrow for the soldiers. "Immortal shames" and "why speak not they of comrades that went under" ^{questions why} ~~reflects or why~~ these soldiers feel guilty when they have conducted their duties honourably. Spring Offensive, is a powerful recollection on a scene which demonstrates the horror of war.

Over Explores the horror of war through many poetic terms and techniques which serve to demonstrate the power of poetry in getting a message across.



~~The~~ "Dulce Et Decorum Est", "Anthem For A Doomed Youth" and "Spring Offensive" all highlight the pity of war and gives the readers the opportunity to empathise with the people who experienced it.