

## What is poetry?

- Poems are highly concentrated forms of literature and poets are highly skilled at harnessing the power of words
- The reader is as important to the meaning of poem as the writer

## What is the point of poetry?

Poetry provides writers with the opportunity to:

- Argue for political and social change
- Capture the human experience of important moments in history
- Help us understand the lives and experiences of people from other cultures and traditions
- Explore the universal human experience of grief and loss

## **Poems that capture the human experience of important moments in history**

*Thomas Hardy:* He was highly critical of much in Victorian society. "The Man He Killed" was written in response to the Boer War. Hardy suggests that killing in war is futile and absurd.  
*Wilfred Owen:* Is generally considered to be the greatest war poet. He fought and died on the front line and experienced, first hand, the true horror of war. He wrote *Dulce et Decorum est* to expose the horrors of war.

It is important to note that poems about war can serve a number of purposes: Some, like Pope's 'who's for the Game?' can be viewed as pro-war propaganda, whereas others wanted to open their reader's eyes to the horror and suffering endured in war and the effect of war upon the individual.

## **Poems that argue for political and social change**

**William Blake:** Blake was a Romantic Poet who believed that social reform was necessary to achieve true freedom. He despised the restrictions put in place by large institutions such as the Church and the monarchy.



## **TIER 3 VOCABULARY**

### **anaphora**

when the start of line is repeated

### **couplet**

a pair of lines that may rhyme

### **enjambment**

when a sentence is continued over more than one line

### **quatrain**

a 4-line stanza

### **symbol -ism, -ic**

an image that represents an abstract idea

### **tone**

the general feeling or mood

## **A metaphor has three parts:**

### 1. Tenor

The thing you want to try and describe to your audience.

### 2. Vehicle

The imaginative idea you compare it with to help your audience understand it. This is the 'made up' bit.

### 3. Ground/s

The things the tenor and the vehicle have in common.

Futile	Adj: incapable of producing any useful result; pointless
Propaganda	Noun- information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.
Patriotism	Noun- the quality of being patriotic; devotion to and vigorous support for one's country
Dehumanising	deprive of positive human qualities.