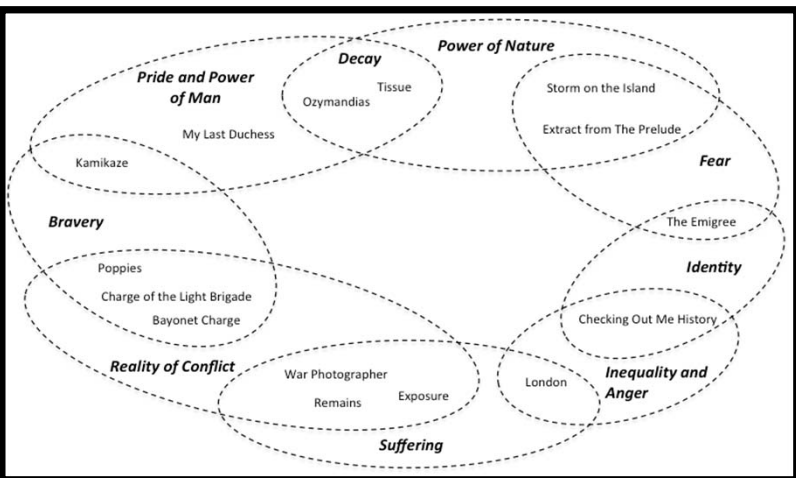




POWER AND CONFLICT POEMS



Power and Conflict Poetry	Power of humans	Power of nature	Effects of conflict	Reality of conflict	Loss and absence	Memory	Anger	Guilt	Fear	Pride	Identity	Individual experience
Ozymandias												
London												
The Prelude												
My Last Duchess												
Light Brigade												
Exposure												
Storm on Island												
Bayonet Charge												
Remains												
Poppies												
War Photographer												
Tissue												
The Emigree												
Kamikaze												
Ck out me History												

London
Marks of weakness, marks of woe.
Mind forged manacles.
Runs in blood down palace walls.

Ozymandias
Sneer of cold command King of kings
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Round the decay Of that colossal wreck

My Last Duchess
She thanked men, – good
My gift of a nine-hundred-years-old name
The curtain I have drawn for you,
I gave commands; Then all smiles stopped

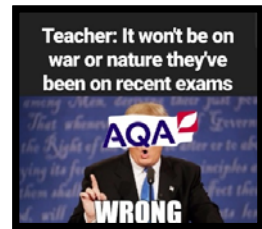
Charge of the Light Brigade
Theirs not to make reply, Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to do and die.
Into the valley of Death Rode the six hundred.
Into the jaws of Death, Into the mouth of hell.

The Emigree
I have no passport, there's no way back at all
like a hollow doll, opens and spills a grammar
It lies down in front of me, docile as paper;
I comb its hair and love its shining eyes.
They accuse me of being dark in their free city.

Tissue
Paper that lets the light shine through
trace a grand design with living tissue
If buildings were paper, I might feel their drift...easily
they fall away on a sigh

Checking Out Me History
Dem tell me Wha dem want to tell me
Bandage up me eye with me own history
Blind me to me own identity
I carving out me identity

Kamikaze
Her father embarked at sunrise
enough fuel for a one-way journey into history
little fishing boats strung out like bunting
he must have wondered which had been the better way to die.



Storm on the Island
We are prepared: we build our houses squat
Can raise a tragic chorus in a gale
Exploding comfortably
splits like a tame cat turned savage

The Prelude
A little boat tied to a willow tree Straight I unloosed her chain
heaving through the water like a swan
The horizon's bound, a huge peak, black and huge,
I struck and struck again With trembling oars I turned
But huge and mighty forms, that do not live
Like living men, moved slowly through the mind

War Photographer
spools of suffering in ordered rows
hundred agonies in black and white
half formed ghost what someone must
eyeballs prick with tears between the bath and pre-lunch beers.

Remains
probably armed, possibly not.
I see every round as it rips through his life
tosses his guts back into his body.
His bloody life in my bloody hands.

Poppies
the world overflowing like a treasure chest.
A split second and you were away, intoxicated
After you'd gone, released a song bird from its cage
I listened, hoping to hear your playground voice
catching on the wind.

Bayonet Charge
Sweating like molten iron from the centre of his chest,
Threw up a yellow hare that rolled like a flame
He plunged past with his bayonet,
King, honour, human dignity, ectera

Exposure
But nothing happens
We cringe in holes
We turn back to our dying.
What are we doing here?



REMAINS

Key Quotes:

- On another occasion
- Probably armed, possibly not
- I see every round as it rips through his life
- He's there on the ground, sort of inside out
- My mate... tosses his guts back into his body
- He's carted off in the black of a lorry
- His blood shadow stays on the street
- The drink and drugs won't flush him out
- He's here in my head when I close my eyes
- His bloody life in my bloody hands

Compare with memory, effects of conflict and individual experience in:

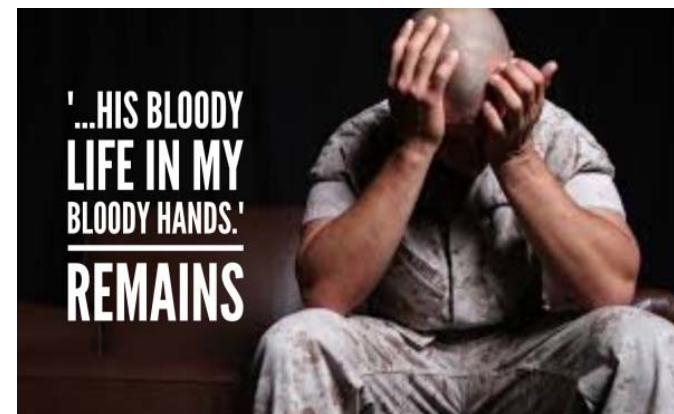
- Kamikaze
- Poppies
- Bayonet Charge
- War Photographer
- Emigree

Language and themes:

Armitage uses lots of colloquialisms such as: well, tackle, legs it, letting fly, tosses and end of story. They underplay the enormity of what the soldiers have done

The imagery used to describe the dead looter is graphic and savage- here Armitage emphasises the horrors of war and makes no attempt to conceal the brutality

The narrator has blood on his hands and is struggling to cope with the guilt





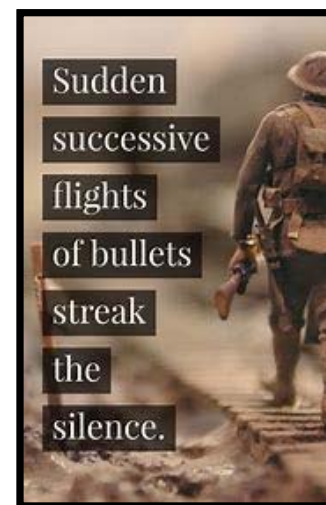
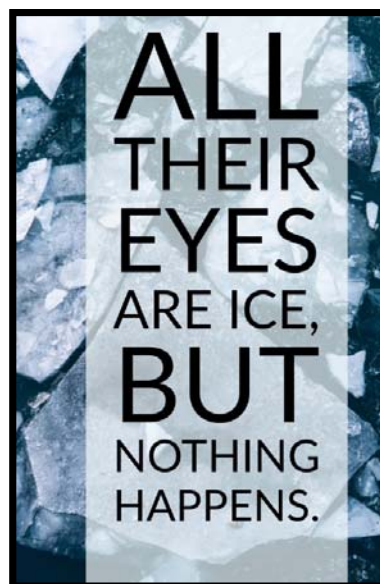
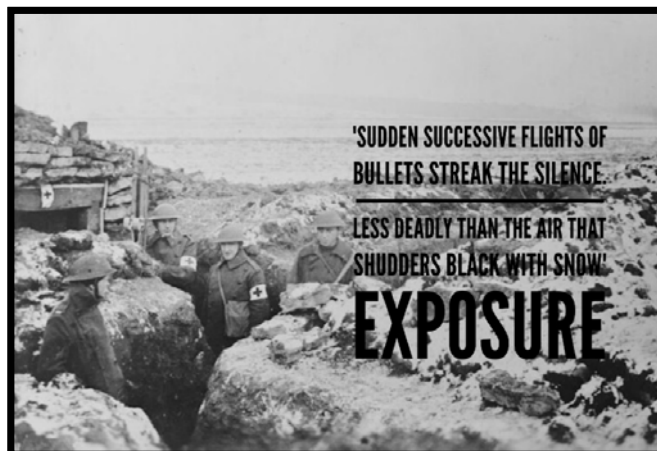
EXPOSURE

Key Quotes:

- Merciless iced east winds that knife us
- But nothing happens
- Dull rumour of some other war
- Air that shudders black with snow
- Slowly our ghosts drag home
- For love of God seems dying
- Half known faces, all their eyes are ice

Language and themes:

The men feel hopeless like God had forgotten them
Nature and the enemy are personified
The weather is shown to be just as much of an enemy as the real enemy



Compare with reality of war, power of nature, loss and absence in:

- London
- Bayonet Charge
- Storm on the Island
- London
- Remains
- War Photographer





LONDON

Key Quotes:

- Marks of weakness, marks of woe
- Every cry... every infant... every voice
- Mind forged manacles
- Chimney Sweeper's cry
- Blackening Church
- Runs in blood down palace walls

Language and themes:

Language is negative and cynical throughout
Emotive language and repetition reinforce the horror of their hopeless situation
Blake believes the people in power are to blame for the poverty in London

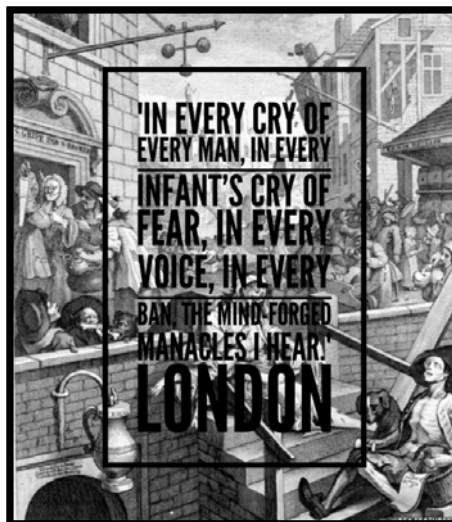
Compare with anger, loss, absence, imbalance of power:

Checking Out Me History

Exposure

War Photographer

Charge of the Light Brigade





STORM ON THE ISLAND



Key Quotes:

- We are prepared we build our houses squat
- The wizened earth has never troubled us
- Nor are there trees/ which might prove company when it blows full/ blast
- Laves and branches can raise a tragic chorus
- There are no trees no natural shelter
- The flung spray hit/ the very windows
- Spits like a tame cat/ turned savage
- Strange, it is a huge nothing we fear

Compare with reality of war, power of nature, loss and absence in:

- Exposure
- The Prelude
- Bayonet Charge
- War Photographer
- Remains



Language and themes:

The semantic field of the stormy weather highlights the unrelenting attack of the storm

The storm is a metaphor for the conflict on the streets of NI
Military imagery is used to hint at this

The poem focusses on how they have been accustomed to the troubles



KAMIKAZE

Key Quotes:

- Head full of powerful incantations
- A one way journey in to history
- Little fishing boats... strung out like bunting
- Green blue translucent sea
- Remembered how he and his brothers
- A tuna, a dark prince, muscular, dangerous
- Mother never spoke again in his presence
- They treated him as though he no longer existed
- We too learned to be silent
- Wondered which had been the better way to die

Compare with memory, identity, power of nature, war and conflict in:

- Checking Out Me History
- The Prelude
- Poppies
- Emigree
- Exposure
- War Photographer
- Bayonet Charge
- Remains

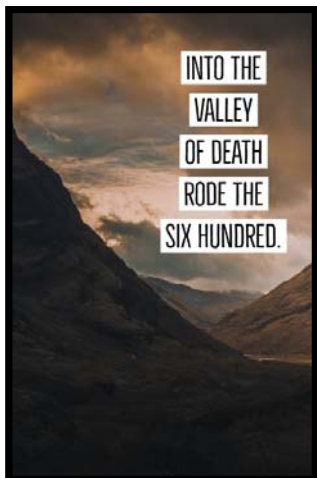


Language and themes:

The patriotic language contrasts with the sense of shame
It's clear the daughter feels a sense of regret and loss that he is ostracised
The sea teeming with life is a direct contrast with the death he is facing



CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE

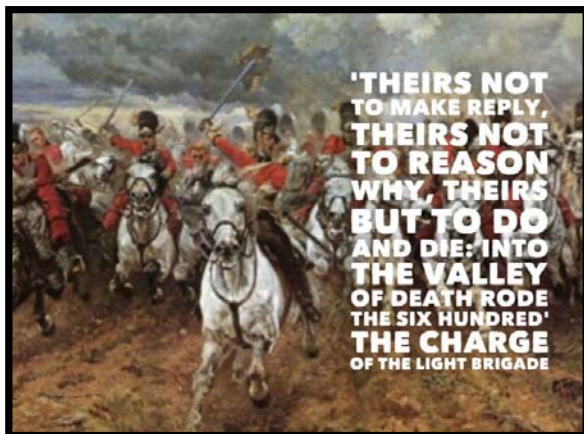


Key Quotes:

- All in the valley of death rode the six hundred
- Someone had blundered
- Theirs not to make reply... reason why
- Stormed at with shot and shell
- Into the jaws of death/into the mouth of hell
- Honour the light brigade/ Noble six hundred

Compare with war and conflict in:

- Poppies
- Exposure
- War Photographer
- Bayonet Charge
- Remains

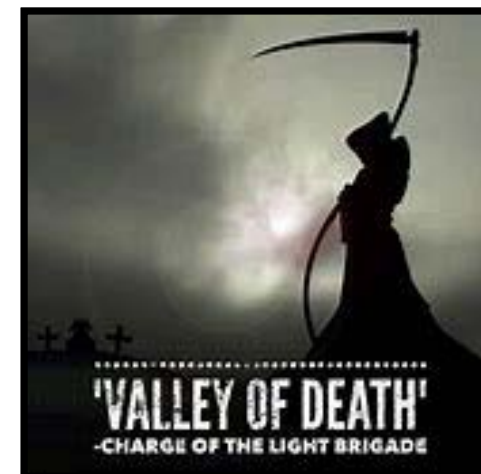


Language and themes:

They will be remembered as a group- not as individuals

The poem is a symbol for heroism, patriotism and blind allegiance to the flag. The men follow orders with unquestioning faith in their leaders

The rhythm of the poem gives it a celebratory tone





BAYONET CHARGE

Key Quotes:

- Dazzled by rifle fire
- Bullets smacking the belly out of the air
- The patriotic tear that had brimmed in his eye Sweating like molten iron from the centre of his chest
- And crawled in a threshing circle, its mouth wide Open silent, its eyes standing out.
- King, honour, human dignity, etcetera ... Dropped like luxuries

Language and themes:

The poems shows how all of the propaganda given to soldiers meant nothing when they went over the top

It is about the chaos of war and being in No Man's Land

The poet compares the soldiers to scared animals desperate to survive

Compare with war and conflict in:

- Poppies
- Exposure
- War Photographer
- Charge of the Light Brigade
- Remains





TISSUE

Key Quotes:

- Could alter things
- Paper thinned by age or touching
- Smoothed and stroked and tuned transparent with attention

Language and themes:

The poem compares life to paper because it is so delicate yet is so important and is filled with power.

The speaker in this poem uses tissue as an extended metaphor for life. She considers how tissue paper can 'alter things' and refers to the soft thin paper of religious books, in particular the Qur'an.

Compare with power of humans, power of nature and identity in:

- Emigree
- Checking out me History
- Prelude
- Ozymandias
- Exposure

'IF BUILDINGS
were paper,
I might feel
THEIR DRIFT,
see how easily

THEY FALL
away on a
sigh, a shift
IN THE
DIRECTION OF
THE WIND.'
TISSUE

'FIND A WAY TO TRACE A
GRAND DESIGN WITH LIVING
TISSUE, RAISE A STRUCTURE
NEVER MEANT TO LAST, OF
PAPER SMOOTHED AND
STROKED AND THINNED TO
BE TRANSPARENT'
TISSUE

'PAPER THINNED BY
AGE OR TOUCHING, THE
KIND YOU FIND IN
WELL-USED BOOKS, THE
BACK OF THE KORAN,
WHERE A HAND HAS
WRITTEN IN THE NAMES
AND HISTORIES, WHO
WAS BORN TO WHOM'
TISSUE



OZYMANDIAS

Key Quotes:

- Dazzled by rifle fire
- Bullets smacking the belly out of the air
- The patriotic tear that had brimmed in his eye Sweating like molten iron from the centre of his chest
- And crawled in a threshing circle, its mouth wide Open silent, its eyes standing out.
- King, honour, human dignity, etcetera ... Dropped like luxuries

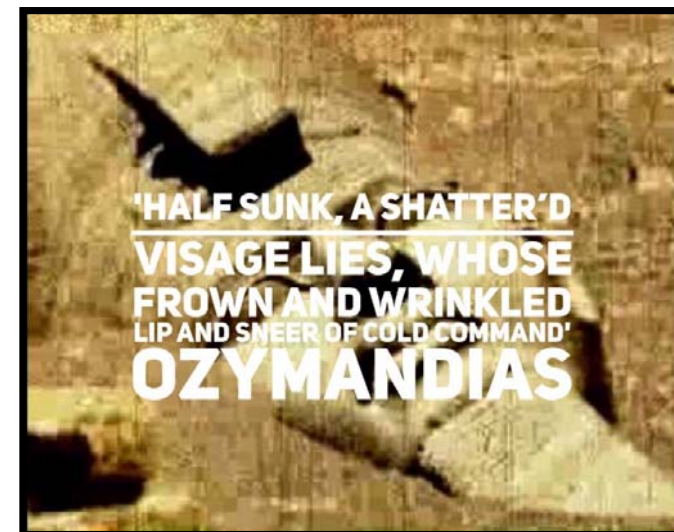
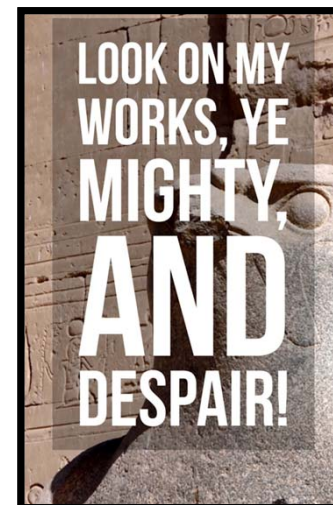
Language and themes:

The poem highlights how no matter how arrogant you are or convinced of your power and control, time and nature are far more powerful
The contrast with the ruler's own words and the shattered stature convey this message

Compare with identity, pride and power of nature and humans in:

- Prelude

- My Last Duchess
- London
- Checking out me History

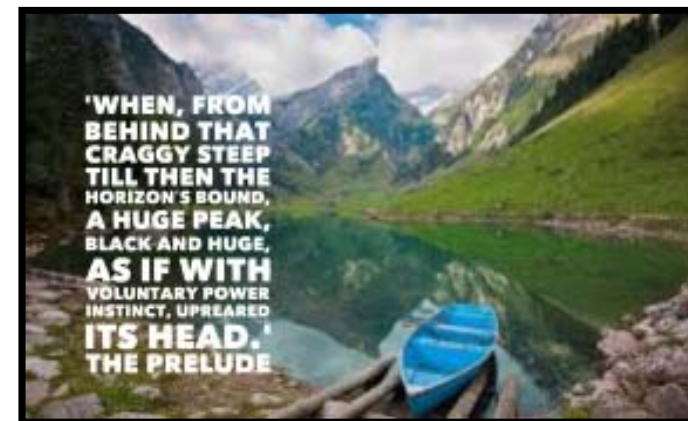




THE PRELUDE

Key Quotes:

- Small circles glittering idly in the moon
- Sprakling light
- Heaving through the water like a swan
- A huge peak, black and huge
- Grim shape
- Upreared its head
- With trembling oars I turned
- Homeward went in grave and serious mood



Language and themes:

- The Prelude portrays an internal journey, in this extract the story of Wordsworth's spiritual growth, and how he comes to terms with his place in nature and the world.
- An extended metaphor is used to show that as he grew up he realised he was small and insignificant compared to the power of nature and the world

Compare with identity, memory and power of nature and humans in:

- Exposure
- The Emigree
- Ozymandias
- War Photographer
- Storm on the Island



WAR PHOTOGRAPHER

Key Quotes:

- Spools of suffering set out in ordered rows
- He has a job to do
- Hands which did not tremble then though seem to now
- A half formed ghost
- Blood stained in to foreign dust
- A hundred agonies in black and white
- The reader's eyeballs prick with tears
- They do not care



'SOMETHING IS HAPPENING.
A STRANGER'S FEATURES
FAINTLY START TO
TWIST BEFORE HIS
EYES, A HALF-FORMED
GHOST'
WAR PHOTOGRAPHER

Language and themes:

The poem highlights how modern society have become desensitised to horrific images of war and don't have empathy with those living in conflict

It shows that the memories have a powerful impact on him

Compare with war, identity and memories in:

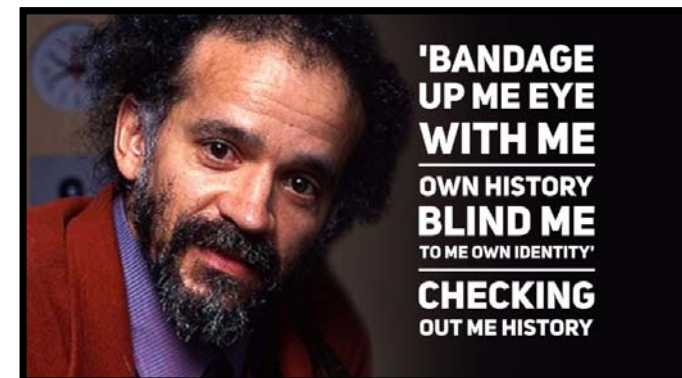
- Prelude
- My Last Duchess
- Exposure
- Checking out me History
- Bayonet Charge
- Remains
- Poppies
- The Emigree



CHECKING OUT ME HISTORY

Key Quotes:

- Dem tell me
- Bandage up me eye
- Blind me to me own identity
- De beacon of de Haitian revolution
- Nanny... fire woman
- Mary Seacole... a healing star... a yellow sunrise
- I carving out me own identity



Language and themes:

Agard is angry that the British education system doesn't promote black culture and important people from black history- making it impossible for him to understand his identity and culture
He uses the metaphor of being blinded and unable to see as a way of accusing the government in an angry tone

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Compare with identity and imbalance of power in: | • Exposure | • The Emigree |
| | • Ozymandias | • London |
| | • Storm on the Island | • My Last Duchess |



EMIGREE



Key Quotes:

- It may be at war, it may be sick with tyrants
- I am branded by an impression of sunlight
- The white streets of that city
- It tastes of sunlight
- They accuse me of being dark in their free city
- My city hides behind me

Language and themes:

The emigree is left nameless and we don't know where she has come from because the story applies to anyone who has been a refugee

The language shows she is protective of her memories as they are how she constructs her identity

The reader can see that is fooling herself by believing that her homeland is a peaceful place that hasn't been destroyed by war and conflict

Compare with identity and memories in:

• Checking Out Me

History

• Prelude

• Tissue

• War Photographer

• My Last Duchess

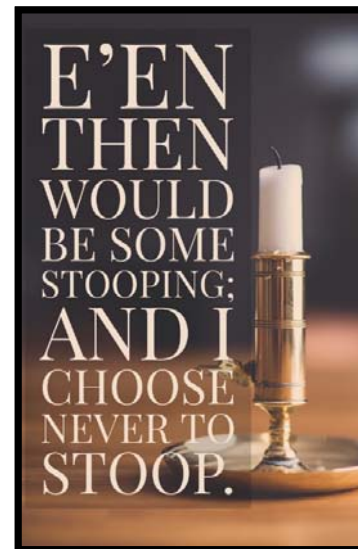
• Poppies



MY LAST DUCHESS

Key Quotes:

- That's my last duchess painted on the wall
- None puts by the curtain I have drawn for you but I
- Too easily impressed
- Her looks went everywhere
- As if she ranked my gift of a nine hundred years old name with anybody's gift
- Then all smiles stopped together
- Notice Neptune though taming a sea-horse, thought a rarity



Language and themes:

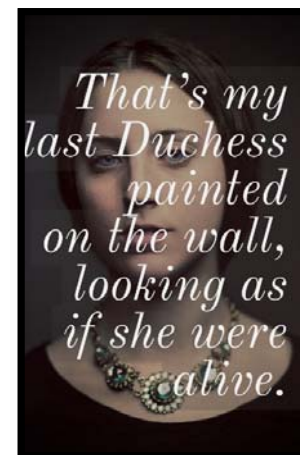
My Last Duchess explores a domineering man who wanted control over his wife so much that he ended up killing her

The painting is a symbol of his desire for control

He tries to paint himself as the victim in their marriage but it is clear she was

Compare with identity and power in:

- Checking Out Me
- History
- Ozymandias
- Emigree

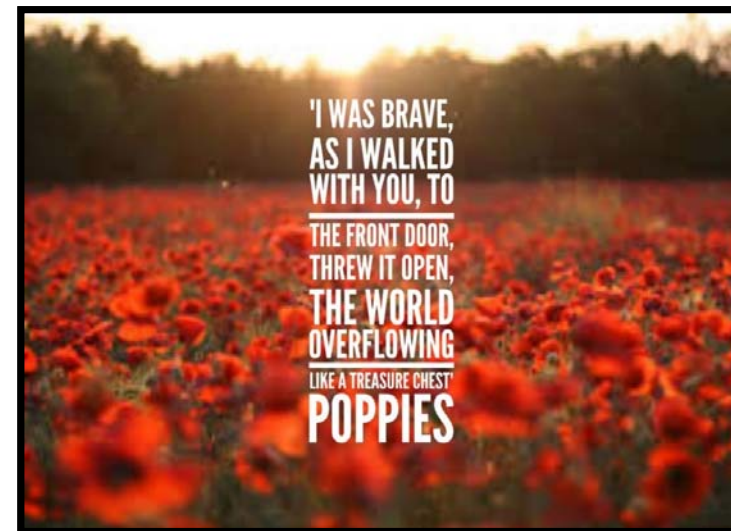




POPIES

Key Quotes:

- I wanted to graze my nose across the tip of your nose
- I resisted my impulse
- All my words flattened, rolled, turned n to felt
- I was brave as I walked with you
- The world overflowing like a treasure chest
- A plit second and you were away, intoxicated
- War memorial... leaned against it like a wishbone



Language and themes:

The poem is about a mother sending her son off to war and making the link with how it feels when you send your child off to school. The poet wanted to help everyone understand how it felt to have to let them go. She uses images of war to help make those links and highlight the conflict inside that she is feeling

- | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| Compare with war and memories in: | • Remains | • Prelude |
| • Exposure | • War Photographer | |
| | • Bayonet Charge | |