

First World War Poetry in Context

Exploring poetry and experience

Teacher Notes

This teaching resource encourages students to explore and compare the experiences of war in a selection of the poetry of the First World War.

Each poem has been written by, or has a close connection to, casualties we commemorate who lost their lives in the war.

The resource will allow for the teaching of the key English skills of understanding themes and ideas, language analysis, looking at texts in their context and comparison.

The resource is recommended for students 11-14 and provides an introduction to the range of skills needed for the further study of poetry at exam level.

The Poets

- William Noel Hodgson
- Ewart Alan Mackintosh
- Vera Brittain

Information is given on where we commemorate Hodgson, Mackintosh, and Brittain's fiancée, Roland Leighton, and an opportunity to explain what the work of the CWGC is.

How To Use the Resource

Teaching slide deck & Handouts

The slide deck contains suggestions on how to approach the learning.

Each poet is introduced to the students through their life story and experience of the First World War. This provides an ideal opportunity to consider how what we know about them may affect what they write about in their poetry.

Students are then introduced to the poems and there are opportunities here to consider the following:

- Overall meaning
- Thoughts and feelings
- Language analysis
- Structural analysis
- Links to context

Brief notes on these areas are included in the notes on the slides.

The resource works towards allowing the students to develop comparisons between the poems and how the experience of these individuals in the First World War affects this.

There are a range of potential outcomes ranging from group discussion to an analytical comparison dependent on the teacher's objectives.