**Year 10 PPE2. SJBC’s English ‘Guide to Genius’**

Unit: Conflict and Power Poetry Anthology – Set A

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| **Topic Area** | **Core Knowledge** | | | **Vocabulary** | **Quotations** | |
| **The Charge of the Light Brigade by Alfred, Lord Tennyson** | * Celebrates and honours the bravery of soldiers while criticising the authority of those who sent them to their deaths. * Tennyson was poet laureate writing about the Battle of Balaclava in the Crimean War. * Use of dactylic dimeter both conveys the relentless bravery of the soldiers but also the crushing inability of the soldiers to escape. | | | **Patriotism (n.) –** *loyalty towards one’s country*  **Futility (n.) –** *pointlessness, hopelessness*  **Glorification (n.) –** *the praise or worship of something, often unjustified*  **Satirical (adj.) –** *using satire to mock or undermine* | 1. “Into the Valley of Death… Jaws of Death” 2. “Theirs but to do and die” 3. “Honour the Light Brigade, Noble six hundred!” | |
| **Bayonet Charge by Ted Hughes** | * The poem attempts to express the reality of war in response to the fallacy of propaganda * Exposes the horrifying loss of humanity experienced by soldiers at war * Hughes own father and uncle fought in WW1 – he reflects some of the terror experienced * Alludes to Wilfred Owen’s poem ‘Spring Offensive’ * Three stanzas (urgent, slow, urgent) used to convey the existential crisis and inner turmoil of the nameless soldier | | | **Existentialism (n.) –** *a philosophical theory that emphasises individual people as free agents of their own fate*  **Mechanistic (adj.) –** *mechanical, automatic, inhuman*  **Visceral (adj.) –** *if something is visceral, you can feel it in your guts; it creates a powerful inward feeling* | 1. “Patriotic tear… sweating like molten iron from the centre of his chest” 2. “In what cold clockwork of the stars and the nations was he the hand pointing that second?” 3. “Terror’s touchy dynamite” 4. “Yellow hare that rolled like a flame” | |
| **Poppies by Jane Weir** | * Conveys the power of memories, guilt and grief from the perspective of a mother whose son dies at war * Weir wanted to present a mother’s perspective of war after reading the letters between Wilfred Owen and his mother * Use of free verse conveys memory as powerful and ephemeral; structurally, tells the narrative of a mother losing her son time and time again | | | **Ritualistic (adj.) –** *if an action is ritualistic, it is performed as if in a ceremony*  **Liberation (n.) –** *freedom, salvation, release*  **Spectral (adj.) –** *ghostly, haunting* | 1. “Spasms of paper red” 2. “The world overflowing like a treasure chest” 3. “Hoping to hear your playground voice catching on the wind” | |
| **Remains by Simon Armitage** | * Depicts the emotional and psychological impacts of the violence of war as the speaker seems to be suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder * Armitage wrote a collection of poems, *The Not Dead*, inspired by the voices of veterans who he interviewed * Uses enjambment, caesura and colloquial language to create a sense of verisimilitude, accentuating the horror of the speaker’s story | | | **Torturous (adj.) –** *extremely painful, harrowing and disturbing*  **Interminable (adj.) –** *endless, ceaseless, without stopping*  **Verisimilitude (n.) –** *the appearance of being true or real* | 1. “Probably armed, possibly not” 2. “Drink and the drugs won’t flush him out” 3. “Bloody life in my bloody hands” | |
| **Kamikaze by Beatrice Garland (2014)** | | * The poem is a depiction of Japanese culture and the role of Kamikaze pilots who would make deliberate suicidal attacks during World War II. * The poem offers a female perspective of war that explores its wide and lasting impact. * The poem uses three different perspectives which conveys the inheritance of tradition and ideology through generations. | **Sacrificial (adj.) –** *if something is sacrificial, it is used as an offering to a god or a deity*  **Epiphany (n.) –** *an epiphany is a sudden moment of great realisation*  **Ostracised (v.) –** *if someone is ostracised, they are excluded from society or a group* | | | 1. “Embarked at sunrise” 2. “Strung out like bunting” 3. “Dark shoals of fishes flashing silver” 4. “Better way to die” |
| **War Photographer by Carol Ann Duffy (1985)** | | * Duffy was inspired to write the poem by her friendship with a war photographer. * The poem offers a critique of Western indifference to war and conflict. * The poem lists war zones with associated photographs. and explores the psychological impact of being a war photographer, with the suicide of Kevin Carter in 1993 an example of its trauma. * Each stanza ends in a rhyming couplet as the War Photographer attempts to find order in the chaos. | **Sanctify (v.) –** *to bless, consecrate or purify something*  **Indifference (n.) -** *lack of interest, sympathy or understanding*  **Harrowing (adj.) –** *disturbing, upsetting, traumatic.* | | | 1. “Rural England. Home again to ordinary pain” 2. “Spools of suffering” 3. “All flesh is grass” 4. “Prick with tears between the bath and pre-lunch beers” |
| **Storm on the Island by Seamus Heaney** | | * Conveys a dramatic battle between man and nature, with a subtle allusion to ‘The Troubles. * ‘The Troubles’ refer to a period of conflict in Northern Ireland in the late 20th century. * Heaney is an Irish poet who often uses agricultural and natural images as metaphors for human nature. * Heaney uses blank verse to convey the interminable violence of nature. | **Hostility (n.) –** *aggression, conflict, opposition, antagonism*  **Pragmatism (n.) –** *a way of dealing with situations sensibly and logically rather with emotion*  **Volatility (n.) –** *unpredictability, instability, explosiveness* | | | 1. “We are prepared” 2. “Spits like a tame cat turned savage” 3. “Exploding comfortably” 4. “It is a huge nothing that we fear” 5. “Strafes… salvo…” |
| **Exposure by Wilfred Owen** | | * Presents nature as a brutal enemy to soldiers at war in order to convey a loss of hope, faith and life * Owen himself was a WW1 soldier whose own views shifted from patriotism to criticism; he died just a week before the war ended * Uses half-rhyme throughout to evoke an unsettling discomfort and discord | **Discordant (adj.) –** *conflicting, uncomfortable, dissonant, jarring*  **Nihilism (n.) –** *a belief that life is pointless; a rejection of all religious and moral principles*  **Universality (n.) –** *the quality of something that is shared by and relevant for many people* | | | 1. “Merciless iced east winds that knife us” 2. “But nothing happens” 3. “For love of God seems dying” |

**GUIDE TO GENIUS: A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

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| **Core Knowledge: *This is the knowledge that you will definitely be tested on in PPE 1. You could be asked about anything in the Guide to Genius but you must know the information in this box.***  **Juxtaposition:** The placing of two opposites next to each other for contrast.  **A sentence with a semi colon –** A semi colon acts as a hinge by joining two independent clauses together. It is used instead of a connective in a sentence. A colon acts like a traffic light, showing an important piece of information is going to follow. It doesn’t have to be followed by an independent clause.  **Allegory -** An allegory is a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one.  **Penance/penitent –** To be sorry for something.  **Destitute –** Poor and desperate. | |
| **CHARACTERS**  **Main characters**  Ebenezer Scrooge  Bob Cratchit  Scrooge's nephew, Fred  **Secondary characters**  The Ghost of Christmas Past  The Ghost of Christmas Present  The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come  Tiny Tim  **Minor characters**  Jacob Marley  Belle  The charity collectors  Fezziwig  Fan | |
| **Context**   * Dickens’ own story is one of **rags to riches**. He was born in Portsmouth on 7th February 1812, to John and Elizabeth Dickens. The good fortune of being sent to school at the age of nine was short-lived because his father was imprisoned for bad debt. The entire family, apart from Charles, were sent to Marshalsea (a famous prison in Southwark, London). * Charles had to leave school and was sent to work in a boot polish factory at the age of twelve. While there, he endured **appalling** conditions as well as loneliness and despair. After three years he was returned to school, but the experience was never forgotten and became **fictionalised** in two of his better-known novels ‘David Copperfield’ and ‘Great Expectations’. * In the novel, Dickens explores the underworld of London during the Industrial Revolution as well as to criticise society’s treatment of innocent children born in **poverty**. * The rise of technology during the Industrial Revolution brought in machines to replace human labour, forcing hundreds of thousands of laborers to the big cities searching for work. There simply weren't enough government programs, infrastructure, or funds to support the growing population, which left millions of poor families living in destitution. * Many of those unable to support themselves—often single women, the elderly, the disabled, and children—lodged in workhouses, where a squalid bed was "rented" in exchange for long hours of manual labour. Workhouses were introduced as part of the ‘poor law’ amendments in 1834, forcing families to get support from government institutions. * The combination of poverty, overcrowding in the cities, and poor sanitation left impoverished Victorians, such as Tiny Tim, open to disease. While Dickens does not specify Tiny Tim's disease, there are textual clues: leg braces, a crutch, and the implication money might prevent the boy's death. Some doctors have made a diagnosis based on these clues as well as a knowledge of the story's setting. * When A Christmas Carol was published in 1843, Christmas was just transitioning from a quiet, religious holiday to one enjoyed by an entire community. Dickens himself celebrated the holiday lavishly, putting on elaborate Twelfth Night performances for family and friends. | **Vocabulary**  Destitute – poor  Appalling – awful |
| **Stave 1:** It is Christmas Eve and he won't pay to heat the office properly. ... That night the Ghost of Jacob Marley, his dead business partner, appears. He tells Scrooge that his mean way of life will lead to misery and that three Ghosts will visit him to show him the error of his ways.   * Scrooge is juxtaposed with his nephew Fred through fire/ice imagery where Scrooge is likened to ice and Fred to fire.   **KEY QUOTE: (Scrooge) ‘’the cold within him froze his features’’ (Fred) ‘’his eyes sparkled’’.**   * Scrooge argues that one of the benefits of extreme poverty is the poor dying to reduce the surplus population. He is paraphrasing the ideas of Thomas Malthus when he does this.   **KEY QUOTE: (Scrooge) ‘’they had better [die] and decrease the surplus population’’.**   * The benefits of helping others are presented as physical health, reduction in isolation and the fact that so many need help. * To improve our writing, we can include anecdotes. These are short stories that illustrate a point. * Spiritualism is a movement that began in mid-Victorian times and centred on mediums contacting the dead. Writers included these ideas in their stories. Dickens was sceptical of these ideas and this is shown in the way he presents Scrooge’s reaction to Marley’s ghost.   **KEY QUOTE: (Scrooge) he ‘’fought against his senses’’.** | **Vocabulary**  Contempt -hatred or disgust  Callous – cruel or nasty  Surplus – extra  Appropriates – to take or use something that does noit belong.  Sceptical – not inclined to believe something.  Satanic – devil-like |
| **Stave 2:** The Ghost of Christmas Past shows Scrooge his unhappy childhood. They visit the house of Scrooge's first employer, Fezziwig, who is holding a Christmas party. ... Scrooge sees himself as a young man with Belle, the woman he was engaged to marry.   * Scrooge is distressed by what he sees and begs the spirit to spare him. He can see how the mistakes he has made have led to his currently life.   **KEY QUOTE: ‘’Spirit! Said Scrooge in a broken voice, ‘’remove me from this place’’.**   * There a lots of reasons to argue that extreme wealth is a bad thing. Often, the very wealthy exploit others, the poor suffer and extreme wealth is bad for climate change. On the other hand, the wealthy can provide good role models and can share their wealth with others | **Vocabulary**  Distressed – upset  Traumatised – Scarred or hurt by something  Inequality – when things are unbalanced.  Philanthropic – The act of charitably giving to others. |
| **Stave 3** The church clock strikes one, startling Scrooge, who awakes in mid-snore. ... The spirit orders Scrooge to touch his robe. Upon doing so, the feast and the room vanish instantly and Scrooge finds himself alongside the spirit in the midst of the bustling city on Christmas morning. As part of this he visits the Cratchit family and sees their ill son, Tiny Tim.   * Sentimentalism became popular during the 18th century when a new focus on feelings and emotions became fashionable. Lots of stories and art were designed to provoke strong feelings in the reader or viewer.   **KEY QUOTE: ‘’he didn’t believe there ever was such a goose cooked’’.**   * Dickens personifies the two evils of society – ignorance and want in the figures of two disturbing children. In presenting the children, Dickens is trying to educate the reader about the evils of poverty.   **KEY QUOTE: ‘’yellow, meagre, scowling’’** | **Vocabulary**  Sentimentality – Experiencing strong emotions or feelings  Ignorance – to be unaware or lack experience of something.  Want – poverty |
| **Stave 4** The mysterious Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come takes Scrooge into the future to witness different conversations about a dead man. No one cares that this man has died, and the thieves have so little respect that they have stolen the clothes from his corpse.   * The appearance of the third spirit implies the mystery and uncertainty of the future which, though terrifying for Scrooge, can be changed by him if he wishes.   **KEY QUOTE: The third spirit is described as being ‘‘shrouded’’.** | **Vocabulary**  Shrouded – covered or hidden from view |
| **Stave 5** Stave 5 of Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol **finds Scrooge giddy with happiness**. He is so relieved to not only be alive but also to have another chance at life. He sets about changing his ways immediately as he has a large turkey sent anonymously to the home of his clerk, Bob Cratchit.   * Having learnt the spirits’ lessons, Scrooge has transformed himself and his character has completely changed.   **KEY QUOTE: (Scrooge) ‘’his own heart laughed and that was quite enough for him’’.**   * Some people argue that Christmas has lost all of its true meaning. They suggest most people are no longer Christian and that Christmas has no meaning beyond presents. Others say that the Christmas story is still important that surveys show Christmas is still important to lots of people. | **Vocabulary**  Contested – challenged or argued against  Retains – keeps hold of  Commercial – concerned with money or business  Hollow – empty or meaningless. |