

The key ideas in the war poems

Poem	Big ideas + quotations
Bayonet Charge Ted Hughes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Man is turned into a weapon of war through experiencing battle• The reality of warfare – unpredictable, traumatic
Poppies Jane Weir	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The far-reaching impact of conflict – a maternal viewpoint• Explores the concept of internal conflict – dealing with grief
Kamikaze Beatrice Garland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explores the internal conflict a Kamikaze and his family faced• The power of societal expectations• The power of memories and the natural world
Exposure Wilfred Owen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ‘Exposes’ the bleak, monotonous reality of warfare – unlike propaganda• Explores the futility of war – the mental and physical traumas caused (Owen died in WW1)• Explores the power of nature as a punishing force over humanity
Remains Simon Armitage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explores the internal trauma caused by war (impact of PTSD)• Explores a soldier attempting to mask his guilt
Charge of the Light Brigade Alfred Lord Tennyson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A celebration of soldier’s bravery in the Crimean war• A controversial challenge to the power figures making ‘blunders’• Explores soldiers lack of identity – their enforced behaviours
War Photographer Carol Ann Duffy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explores human guilt – the photographer is torn between his job and his moral integrity• Duffy (angrily) explores our indifference and lack of empathy for those in conflict

