Dulce et Decorum Est
By Wilfred Owen

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,
Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge,
Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs,
And towards our distant rest began to trudge.
Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots,
But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame; all blind;
Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots
Of gas-shells dropping softly behind.

Gas! GAS! Quick, boys!—An ecstasy of fumbling
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time,
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling
And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime.—
Dim through the misty panes and thick green light,
As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.

In all my dreams before my helpless sight,
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.

If in some smothering dreams, you too could pace
Behind the wagon that we flung him in,
And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,
His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin;
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs,
Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues,—
My friend, you would not tell with such high zest
To children ardent for some desperate glory,
The old Lie: *Dulce et decorum est*
Pro patria mori.

Can you spot the poetic device?

Red----- _____

Blue---- _____

Green--- _____

1. **When and where is the poem set?**
2. **Describe the men in the poem.**
3. **List all the weapons the poet mentions.**
4. **Why do the soldiers put on the masks?**
5. **What effect does the gas have on the men?**
6. **Find all the negative words in the poem.**
7. **Identify all the uses of alliteration in the poem.**

PQE (Point, Quote, Explain)

1. **What do you think is the most powerful image in the poem? Give reasons for your answer.**
2. **What is the effect of the punctuation in the poem. Explain your answer with reference to the text.**
3. **How is the speaker in the poem affected by the death of a fellow soldier? Support your answer with reference to the text.**
4. ***Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori* means, 'It is sweet and fitting to die for your country.' Does the poet agree? Explain your answer with reference to the text.**
5. ***Dulce et Decorum Est'* reveals the true horror of war. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.**

Activities

- **Write a poem inspired by something you feel strongly about. Remember to plan and edit your work**
- **Write the debate for or against the motion, 'War is a necessary evil.**