

Wilfred Edward Salter Owen MC (18 March 1893 – 4 November 1918) was an English poet and soldier, one of the leading poets of the First World War. He is famous for his shocking, realistic war poetry on the horrors of trenches and gas warfare. He was killed in 1918 just one week before the end of the War.

Wilfred Owen is widely recognised as one of the most influential modern poets of the twentieth century. His poetry is known for its powerful, vivid imagery and its deeply moving portrayal of the horrors of war. Owen's work is often seen as a turning point in the development of modern poetry, as it reflects a fundamental shift in the way that poets viewed their role in society and their relationship to language. Owen's poetry is characterised by its directness and its emotional intensity. He eschewed the lofty, abstract language of earlier poets in favour of a more direct, concrete style that emphasized the immediacy and intensity of his experience. His poems are filled with vivid, sensory details that bring his experiences to life and convey the full horror of war in a way that is difficult to ignore.

One of the keyways in which Owen is known as a modern poet is through his use of free verse. In contrast to the formal, structured poetry of earlier generations, Owen's work is characterised by its lack of rhyme and meter. This allowed him to experiment with the form and structure of his poems, and to convey a sense of urgency and immediacy that was often lacking in more formal poetry.

Another key aspect of Owen's poetry is his use of irony and satire. Many of his poems are satirical critiques of the war and its impact on society, and they often use irony to underscore the absurdity and pointlessness of the conflict. This approach was a departure from the more straightforward, patriotic poetry that had been popular in earlier generations, and it helped to pave the way for a more critical, politically engaged form of poetry that would come to dominate the modern era.

Owen's poetry is also notable for its use of vivid, visceral imagery. He drew heavily on his own experiences as a soldier in World War I, and his poems are filled with vivid, graphic depictions of the horrors of trench warfare. From the smell of gas and the sound of shells exploding to the sight of wounded soldiers and the feeling of mud and filth, Owen's poetry conveys the full sensory experience of war in a way that is both powerful and unsettling.

One of Owen's most famous pronouncements was 'My subject is War, and the pity of War. The poetry is in the Pity'. By this he meant that war was the ultimate evil, subverting all the values that human beings might hold dear – values such as goodness, justice, compassion. One of the most striking aspects of Owen's poetry is its emotional depth and intensity. His poems are filled with a sense of anger, frustration, and despair, as he grapples with the senselessness of war and the toll it takes on human life. This emotional intensity is often expressed through powerful, evocative language that captures the full weight of Owen's experience.

Finally, Owen's poetry is notable for its engagement with larger social and political issues. He was deeply critical of the war and the society that had allowed it to happen, and his poems often reflect a broader concern with the state of the world and the human condition. This engagement with larger issues was a departure from the more insular, personal poetry of earlier generations, and it helped to establish a new sense of social and political engagement in modern poetry.

In conclusion, Wilfred Owen is known as a modern poet for his direct, emotional style, his use of free verse, his use of irony and satire, his vivid, visceral imagery, his emotional depth and intensity, and his engagement with larger social and political issues. His poetry represents a fundamental shift in the way that poets approached their craft, and it helped to establish a new sense of urgency, engagement, and social consciousness in modern poetry