

A Level English Literature – Pre Course Task

Owen said 'All a poet can do today is warn. The true poet must be truthful.' How far does the writing and effects of 'Anthem for Doomed Youth' reveal the truth of war?

Complete two paragraphs of this essay, one focusing on the effects of language and another focusing on the effects of structure in revealing the truth about war. You need to take into consideration contextual factors.



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Anthem for Doomed Youth

BY WILFRED OWEN

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?

— Only the monstrous anger of the guns.

Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle

Can patter out their hasty orisons.

No mockeries now for them; no prayers nor bells;

Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs,—

The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;

And bugles calling for them from sad shires.

What candles may be held to speed them all?

Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes

Shall shine the holy glimmers of goodbyes.

The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;

Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,

And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.