

Anthem for Doomed Youth – Wilfred Owen

How would you define 'anthem'?

What is the poem about? What is the tone?

Jingoism:

Which lines suggest this poem is anti-jingoistic?

Five bullet points about Wilfred Owen:

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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.

Orisons: prayers

Pallor: Unhealthy, pale appearance

Pall: cloth covering for a coffin

Simile + effect

Alliteration + effect

Rhetorical questions + effect

Personification + effect

How does Owen use language and form to convey the 'pity of war'?

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Imagine you are a soldier in a World War One trench, *describing* the horrors of war:

It had been a long cold night in the trenches and I'd awoken to find...