

PART ONE: Answer the following questions in your group and be prepared to present your findings to the class.

1. The last line of the poem (and title) is a famous Latin quotation from the Roman poet Horace. It means, "it is a sweet and glorious thing to die for one's country. What is the poet's comment on this statement?
 2. Which elements of the poem seem "unpoetic"? (not typical of what one imagines to be poetry). (Note the Cacophony).
 3. What does the poem gain from moving from plural pronouns and the past tense to singular pronouns and the present tense?
 4. How do the comparisons in lines 1, 14, 20, 23-24 contribute to the effectiveness of the poem? Explain the imagery in detail.
 5. What is the theme of the poem?
-

PART TWO: Read the next poem and answer the following questions in your group and be prepared to present your findings to the class

"Once More unto the Breach, Dear Friends"
William Shakespeare
From *Henry V*: King Henry to his English soldiers

Vocabulary: Breach: break in the wall; therefore, the brunt of attack.

1. What is the context of this speech? What is King Henry saying?
2. Explain how King Henry uses imagery and pride to motivate his soldiers. Provide examples (cite the lines) of the images that are most vivid to you.
3. Find an example of allusion, alliteration, and two examples of similes.
4. What does Henry mean when he says "dishonor not your mothers; now attest/ That those whom you called fathers did beget you"? (22-23).
5. Locate the shift in the poem.

PART THREE: Contrast Owen's and Shakespeare's poems

Remember, your first step is analyzing the poems. Determine the contrasting themes, tones, and symbols between Owen's poems and Henry the Fifth's speech. Provide evidence from the poems (write down and cite the line number). Once you have done this preparatory work, formulate a thesis sentence.

PART FOUR: Formal Contrast Essay

In an essay of approximately 750-800 words contrast Owen's poems ("Anthem for a Doomed Youth" and "Dulce et Decorum Est") with King Henry the Fifth's speech: "Once More Unto the Breech, Dear Friends" by William Shakespeare.

I have included Owen's first poem below. The others can be found in you *Theme and Image II* anthology on pages 81-83.

ANTHEM FOR DOOMED YOUTH

by Wilfred Owen

- 1 What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?
- 2 Only the monstrous anger of the guns.
- 3 Only the shuttering rifles' rapid rattle
- 4 Can patter out their hasty orisons.

- 5 No mockeries for them; no prayers nor bells,
- 6 Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs, --
- 7 The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;
- 8 And bugles calling for them from sad shires.

- 9 What candles may be held to speed them all?
- 10 Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes
- 11 Shall shine the holy glimmers of good-byes.
- 12 The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;

- 13 Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,
- 14 And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.

CRITERIA:

- Edited essay outline and rough copy
- Good copy (double-spaced, in ink)
- Must follow formal writing guidelines, essay criteria, 6 point scale for synthesis essay.