

Key Quotations: Power & Conflict

How to use these:

Annotate them – look carefully at individual words and what they suggest; identify the techniques the writer has used.

Identify what imagery is created by these lines and the impact of the words themselves.

Identify how these lines link to the themes of the text.

Identify how these lines link to the poet's message. Identify how these lines link to another of the poems.

Key themes: The conditions of conflict.

The impact of conflict.

Exploitation of power.

Impact of powerlessness.

Conflict of Identity.

Bayonet Charge:

"Bullets smacking the belly out of the air"

"Sweating like molten iron from the centre of his chest"

"His terror's touchy dynamite"

Exposure:

"Merciless iced East winds that knife us"

"Dawn massing in the East her melancholy army"

"All their eyes are ice"

Charge of the Light Brigade.

"Theirs not to reason why; theirs but to do and die"

"Into the jaws of death, into the mouth of hell"

"honour the light brigade; noble six hundred"

Remains:

"I see every round as it rips through his life"

"and the drink and the drugs won't flush him out"

"his bloody life in my bloody hands"

Poppies:

"crimped petals, spasms of red paper"

"Dove pulled freely against the sky, an ornamental stitch"

"gelled blackthorns of your hair"

War Photographer:

"spools of suffering set out in ordered rows"

"explode beneath the feet of children running in nightmare heat"

"

A hundred agonies in black and white/From which his editor will pick out five or six"

Ozymandias

“look on my works ye mighty and despair”

“sneer of cold command”

“shattered visage lies”

My Last Duchess

“will’t please you sit and look at her”

“I gave commands, then all smiles stopped together”

“Notice Neptune taming a sea horse which Claus of Innsbruck cast in bronze for me”

London

“I wander through each chartered street”

In every cry of every man.... The mind forged manacles I hear”

“Chimney-sweepers cry/ Every blackning church appalls”

Tissue

“with living tissue, raise a structure never meant to last”

“fly our lives like paper kites”

“pages smoothed and stroked and turned”

Storm on The Island

“we build our houses squat”

“spits like a tame cat turned savage”

“We are bombarded with the empty air. Strange it is a huge nothing that we fear ”

Prelude

“troubled pleasure”

“a huge peak black and huge”

“with purpose of its own and measured motion like a living thing strode after me”

The Emigree

“It may be sick with tyrants but I am branded with an impression of sunlight”

“time rolls its tanks”

“That child’s vocabulary that I carried here like a hollow doll opens and spills”

Checking out Me History.

Dem tell me/Wha dem want to tell me”

“ Bandage up me eye with me own history/Blind me to me own identity”

“But now I’m checking out me own history/I carving me own identity

