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| **To what extent does war poetry unnerve and disorientate the reader? Write a 1,000 word essay comparing and contrasting Great War poems with 21st century poems dealing with the theme of war.** |

**Great War poems I have picked**

[The Last Laugh](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/51784/the-last-laugh-56d22fc2c2366) by Wilfred Owen

[Strange Meeting](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/47395/strange-meeting) by Wilfred Owen

[Aftermath](https://www.bartleby.com/103/146.html) by Siegfried Sassoon

**21st century poems I have picked**

[In Times of Peace](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2009/jul/25/war-poetry-carol-ann-duffy) by John Agard

[Big Ask](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2009/jul/25/war-poetry-carol-ann-duffy) by Carol Ann Duffy

[Descent](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2009/jul/25/war-poetry-carol-ann-duffy) by Alan Jenkins

**Introduction**

* Discuss war poetry in general e.g. War poetry, whether written in the 19th century or in the 21st century, is inherently morbid, complex and macabre
* Discuss the terms *unnerving* and *disorientating*
  + What do these terms mean in terms of war poetry?
  + What makes them different to poems that are merely about death?
  + Why do these poets want to unnerve and disorientate the readers? Maybe because the poets want us to experience what these soldiers experienced on the battlefield?
  + Poets try to use whatever technique (poem structure, voice, direct address etc.) they can to leave a lasting impression on their readers
  + Unnerving and disorientating isn't easy of for readers - it makes us uncomfortable - why is this?
* Briefly mention how this essay will compare and contrast the unnerving and disorientating characteristics of both Great War poems and modern 21st century poems

**Main Body (6+ paragraphs)**

* One poem/idea per paragraph – In each paragraph mention these points:
  + Briefly describe what the poem are about
  + Include quotes from the poem
  + Explain how the poem unnerves and disorientates the reader
  + Describe the techniques used in the poems to unnerve and disorientate the reader (when necessary) e.g. structure of the poem, the tone/voice of the poem, direct address etc.
* Paragraph 1: e.g. Wilfred Owen is a well-known war poet of the Great War. One of his poems, “ “, unnerves and disorientates the reader. It is about “ “. He unnerves and disorientates the reader with the use of “ “ and “ “etc. (more explanation)
* Paragraph 2: e.g. The “ “ is similar to the works of a more recent poet, Alan Jenkins, namely his poem Descent, where he …. Etc etc.
* Paragraph 3: e.g. This contrasts to Strange Meeting, which is another one of Wilfred Owen’s poem. This is because… etc.
* Paragraph 4, 5, 6, 7. > Follow same structure as above. Keep comparing and contrasting Great War poems with 21st century poems

**Conclusion**

* Summarise the essay