

WWI Poems – Examples for Colombian Poet Laureate Poems

The three example poems below were written about World War I. They are written showing different perspectives of the war. You will notice that they all follow a rhyming pattern and use poetic devices like figurative language, repetition, and imagery.

For the poem you will write about your chosen Colombian topic, you will need to write from a perspective that isn't always seen or read about. Your poem will also need to include rhyme and other poetic devices.

**Read the following poems and answer the questions for each. Think about how you can incorporate some of the poetic devices these poets have used in your poem.*

<p>“In Flanders Fields”, by John McRae In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, That mark our place; and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly Scarce heard amid the guns below.</p> <p>We are the Dead. Short days ago We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, Loved and were loved, and now we lie In Flanders fields.</p> <p>Take up our quarrel with the foe: To you from failing hands we throw The torch; be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us who die We shall not sleep, though poppies grow In Flanders fields.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Who is speaking in this poem?2. Are the dead or alive? How do you know?3. Whose perspective/view is being shared in this poem?
<p>“My Boy Jack”, by Rudyard Kipling "Have you news of my boy Jack?" Not this tide. "When d'you think that he'll come back?" Not with this wind blowing, and this tide.</p> <p>"Has any one else had word of him?" Not this tide. For what is sunk will hardly swim, Not with this wind blowing, and this tide.</p> <p>"Oh, dear, what comfort can I find?" None this tide, Nor any tide, Except he did not shame his kind — Not even with that wind blowing, and that tide.</p> <p>Then hold your head up all the more, This tide, And every tide; Because he was the son you bore, And gave to that wind blowing and that tide!</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In this poem two people are talking. What are they talking about?2. Does tide in this poem mean the tide of the sea, or does it mean a different rise and fall? Remember, this poem is about war. What tide are they talking about? <i>*Tide: the tide is the rising and falling of the sea. Synonyms of tide are surge, current, and movement.</i>3. From whose perspective is this poem told?

"Dulce et Decorum Est", by Wilfred Owen

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,
Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge,
Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs
And towards our distant rest began to trudge.
Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots
But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame; all blind;
Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots
Of tired, outstripped Five-Nines that dropped behind.

Gas! GAS! Quick, boys! - An ecstasy of fumbling,
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time;
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling
And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime ...
Dim, through the misty panes and thick green light,
As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.

In all my dreams, before my helpless sight,
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.

If in some smothering dreams you too could pace
Behind the wagon that we flung him in,
And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,
His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin;
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs,
Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues, --
My friend, you would not tell with such high zest
To children ardent for some desperate glory,
The old lie: *Dulce et decorum est Pro patria mori.*

1. Who is speaking in this poem? (From whose perspective is the poem told?)
2. What images do you see when you read this poem?
3. The final line of this poem roughly translates to "It is sweet and glorious to die for one's country." – Why does the speaker say that this is a lie?