

Power and conflict poetry – opening statements

<i>Ozymandias</i>	Shelley criticizes the hubristic, ephemeral and futile nature of human power in 'Ozymandias'.
<i>London</i>	Blake criticizes the control of institutions over individuals' freedoms in 'London'.
<i>The Prelude</i>	Wordsworth's autobiographical poem explores the overwhelming dominance and sublime threat of nature on the persona.
<i>My Last Duchess</i>	Browning uses the painted Duchess to demonstrate the objectifying power of the male gaze, suggesting that the patriarchal desire for power and control is sinister, neurotic yet ultimately futile.
<i>The Charge of the Light Brigade</i>	Tennyson idealises patriotic acts of self-sacrifice but also hints at the indoctrinating power of patriotism.
<i>Exposure</i>	Owen suggests the trauma of war causes a profound loss of faith in any higher power or purpose even corrupting nature itself.
<i>Storm on the Island</i>	Heaney's storm reveals the destructive power of nature, but also allegorically represents the often baseless, irrational nature of conflict.
<i>Bayonet Charge</i>	Hughes' poem exemplifies the terrifying, disorientating, traumatic reality of war for soldiers.
<i>Remains</i>	Armitage demonstrates both the dehumanisation that occurs under the conditions of war but also the inability of soldiers to act clinically, suffering instead inevitable psychological disintegration as a result of violence.
<i>Poppies</i>	Weir's nostalgic and emotional response of the persona's reaction to her son leaving criticizes conflict's impact on the family unit in 'Poppies'.
<i>War Photographer</i>	Duffy exposes the commodification of war and criticizes society's apathy towards conflict and trauma while also demonstrating that the chaos and trauma of war can never be fully understood by those living outside of it.
<i>Tissue</i>	Dharker explores the fragility of human power and the ephemeral nature of human constructions through the extended metaphor of paper.
<i>The Emigrée</i>	Rumens uses the narrative of a refugee to demonstrate that nostalgia and memory, even if misplaced, are powerful forces that may even have the power to liberate.
<i>Checking Out Me History</i>	Agard critiques disempowering colonial attitudes in the British education system, suggesting subjugated people must reclaim their own history and identity.
<i>Kamikaze</i>	Garland demonstrates how family happiness can be disrupted by conflict and cultural pressure, but memory has the power to revolt against oppressive political structures.

Poetry quotations and key words:

1. Ozymandias

Shelley criticizes the hubristic, ephemeral and futile nature of human power in 'Ozymandias'.

Key vocabulary		Key poetic terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrogance• Art• Boast• Corrupt• Ephemeral• Futile• Fleeting• Hubristic• Insignificance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Irrelevant• Nature• Oppressive• Political power• Power• Pride• Temporary• Time• Tyrannical• Tyranny	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consonance• Half rhyme• Irony• Irregular structure• Single stanza• Sonnet• Volta

Quotation	Analysis
"Look on my works, ye mighty and despair!"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The commands "look" and "despair" indicate the arrogant and tyrannical nature of Ozymandias.• Shelley uses irony in "my works" as we are told earlier that the statue is broken and later that nothing remains.
"Colossal wreck boundless and bare"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The juxtaposition of 'colossal' and 'wreck' highlights the futility of the hubristic nature of human power.• The alliteration of 'boundless and bare' serves to illustrate how large and empty the space is and therefore how ephemeral the power is.
"Sneer of cold command"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The harsh sounding alliteration mirrors the hubristic and tyrannical nature of Ozymandias' rule.• The condescending noun "sneer" indicates the disdain that Ozymandias had for his people.• Shelley criticises the tyrannical reign and the desire for complete control that some leaders have over others.
"Two vast and trunkless legs"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The juxtaposition of 'vast' and 'trunkless' mirrors the contrast between the hubristic attitude of Ozymandias and the ephemeral and futile nature of human power.
Sonnet form	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The use of the sonnet form indicates a love for nature and art as well as potentially the self-love that Ozymandias has.• The volta indicates the contrast between the hubristic and tyrannical reign of Ozymandias and the ephemeral and futile nature of human power as mirrored by the destroyed statue.

2. London

Blake criticizes the control of institutions over individuals' freedoms in 'London'.

Key vocabulary		Key poetic terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anger • Change • Corruption • Critical • Despair • Equality • Hopelessness • Misery • Rebellion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relentless • Repetitive • Revolution • Society • Trapped • Trudge • Universal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatic monologue • Emotive language • Oxymoron • Regular rhyme • Repetition

Quotation	Analysis
"mind-forged manacles"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The metaphor of manacles (handcuffs) implies that individuals are constrained and lack freedoms in the city. • The metaphor "mind-forged" suggests that the individuals are psychologically controlled by institutions and the state.
"I wandered through each chartered street/ Near where the chartered Thames does flow"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The repetition of 'chartered' is ambiguous: the river has been unnaturally mapped out and contained by humans and also that an institution manages and controls the river. • The juxtaposition of 'wandered' and 'chartered' implies the criticisms Blake has of London – nature and people are trapped and controlled unnecessarily.
"In every cry of every Man,/In every infant's cry of fear,/ In every voice:"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The repetition of 'every' is a reminder that people in cities are dehumanised into a mass group: all of the people are feeling sorrowful. • The juxtaposition of 'man' and 'infant' implies that the suffering and control is inescapable – the institutions will ruin every aspect of the individuals' lives.
Regular structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strict ABAB rhyme scheme implies that there are restrictions and controls keeping people institutionalised. • The stanzas are all rigid and have the same number of lines and same length lines, suggesting that the people feel restricted and controlled by the institutions in London.

3. The Prelude

Wordsworth's autobiographical poem explores the overwhelming dominance and sublime threat of nature on the persona.

Key vocabulary		Key poetic terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrogance• Awe• Carefree• Confidence• Fear• Haunting• Industrialisation• Intimidation• Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overwhelming• Pastoral• Power• Reflection• Respect• Sublime• Threatening• Troubled• Unexpected	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blank verse• First person• Imagery• Metaphor• Oxymoron• Past tense• Simile• Volta

Quotation	Analysis
"but huge and mighty forms, that do not live/Like living men moved slowly through the mind."	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The adjectives 'huge' and 'mighty' demonstrate the speaker's inability to properly comprehend the sublime power of nature.• The psychological language "moved slowly through the mind" indicates the impact that the landscape has on the persona: it horrifies and amazes him.
"Small circles glittering idly in the moon"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The imagery of light in "glittering" implies the beauty of the water and the awe that the persona has for nature.• The adverb "idly" carries calm, peaceful connotations, which contrasts with the agitated psychological state the experience leaves him with.
"O'er my thoughts there hung a darkness"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The metaphor "hung a darkness" suggests an emotional or mental turmoil. Instead of describing his thoughts directly, the speaker uses the image of darkness hanging over them, suggesting a heavy, oppressive feeling that clouds his mind.• The personification of darkness is given a human-like action—"hung"—as if it has the power to loom or settle over the speaker's thoughts. This personification emphasizes how overwhelming and inescapable the speaker's mental state feels.

4. My Last Duchess

Browning uses the painted Duchess to demonstrate the objectifying power of the male gaze, suggesting that the patriarchal desire for power and control is sinister, neurotic yet ultimately futile.

Key vocabulary		Key poetic terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abuse• Arrogance• Art• Confession• Control• Corruption• Flirtatious• Innocence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jealousy• Material possessions• Patriarchal• Pride• Reputation• Sinister• Status• Tyrannical	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dramatic irony• Dramatic monologue• Enjambment• First person• Iambic pentameter• Rhyming couplets

Quotation	Analysis
That's my last Duchess painted on the wall'	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The possessive pronoun "my" implies the sinister control the Duke has over his wife.• The objectifying phrase "painted on the wall" suggests the duchess was only valuable for her looks and is available for the male gaze.
'I gave commands; then all smiles stopped together.'	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The use of the caesura imitates the sudden end of the duchess: her life is broken off.• The sinister sibilant phrase "all smiles stopped" implies that the Duke prevented the Duchess from having fun or that he has killed her.• The powerful noun "commands" implies the patriarchal control the Duke has over people.
'Notice Neptune though, taming a seahorse'	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The alliterative "Notice Neptune" commands the messenger to be impressed by the Duke's statue.• The allusion to the Roman god of the sea implies the power imbalance mirrored with the Duke and his Duchess: the seahorse is a fragile and delicate creature under the control of the powerful god.• The command serves as a warning of the Duke's power and insistence on control.
Dramatic monologue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The use of the dramatic monologue emphasises the Duke's control: he is the only one to have a voice and has power over the narrative.

5. Charge of the Light Brigade

Tennyson idealises patriotic acts of self-sacrifice but also hints at the indoctrinating power of patriotism.

Key vocabulary		Key poetic terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admiration Battle Chaos Commemoration Defenceless Glory Hellish Heroism Horror 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impending doom Indoctrination Inevitability Patriotism Remembrance Retreat Violence Vivid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chronological Metaphor Regular rhythm Repetition Rhyming couplets Rhyming triplets Third person Violent language

Quotation	Analysis
'stormed at with shot and shell'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sibilance mirrors the sounds of the cannon and gun shots fired at the soldiers. The repeated sibilance suggests the bombardment that the soldiers faced by the enemy attack. The symbolism of "stormed" suggests that the attack was sudden, unexpected and that the soldiers were surprised by the onslaught.
'Theirs not to reason why theirs but to do and die'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The parallel phrasing suggests that the soldiers had to just carry out orders – mirror the commands they were given. The repetition of "theirs" implies the separation between the commanding officers and the light brigade soldiers.
'Into the valley of death rode the six hundred'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The biblical allusion heightens the sense of inevitable doom and sacrifice, creating a sombre and fatalistic tone that underscores the soldiers' bravery in the face of certain death. The use of the collective noun 'the six hundred' emphasizes the collective identity of the soldiers, enhancing the epic scale of their charge and evoking a sense of unity and heroism through group representation rather than focusing on individuals.

6. Exposure

Owen suggests the trauma of war causes a profound loss of faith in any higher power or purpose even corrupting nature itself.

Key vocabulary		Key poetic terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bleak• Boredom• Contemplation• Enemy• Expose• Exposed• Frustration• Helpless• Honest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hopelessness• Monotony• Pain• Progression• Realistic• Repetitive• Suffering• Vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collective pronouns• Cyclical structure• Personification• Present tense• Repetition• Rhetorical questions

Quotation	Analysis
"Merciless, the iced east winds knife us"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The sibilance (repeated S sounds) create the sound of wind and increase the tension of the poem.• The personification of the wind as an enemy implies that war has corrupted nature.• The violent verb "knife" sets the tone of trauma and danger: nature is more vicious than the enemy.
"But nothing happens"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The refrain creates the sense of monotony and nihilism amongst the soldiers.• The conjunction "but" implies that the expectation of war is action and drama: the conjunction undermines this and suggests that the monotony is worse.
"Pale flakes with fingering stealth come feeling for our faces"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The personification of the snow as insidious and damaging creates the sense that nature has turned against the soldiers.• The repeated f sounds (fricatives) makes the snow sound sinister and soft and deliberately sneaky.

7. Storm on the Island

Heaney's storm reveals the destructive power of nature, but also allegorically represents the often baseless, irrational nature of conflict.

Key vocabulary		Key poetic terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calm • Confidence • Danger • Familiarity • Fear • Forceful • Frightening • Helplessness • Intangible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overwhelming • Powerful • Powerless • Safety • Stormont (<i>N.I. parliament building</i>) • Strength • Warlike 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assonance • Blank verse • Collective pronouns • Direct address • Sibilance • Single stanza • Volta

Quotation	Analysis
"We are bombarded by the empty air."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The metaphor of "empty air" reflects the futile nature of conflict. It could also represent the psychological nature of fear, which is often "empty" or irrational. • The violent military verb "bombarded" gives us a sense of the immense power of the storm (and/or an explosion).
"like a tame cat turned savage."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The simile suggests that the weather has turned the sea against the islanders and is attacking them. The implication is that an element that people trust has been betrayed (linking with the extended metaphor of terrorism). • The adjective "savage" implies the violence and brutal nature of the sea as it attacks the island.
"exploding comfortably"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The oxymoron suggests that nothing can be trusted, including nature. • The adverb "comfortably" implies that life for the islanders is usually safe and secure: the storm/terror attacks betrays that safety. • The violent present tense verb "exploding" suggests that this action is happening suddenly and that nature is attacking the islanders brutally and without warning.

8. Bayonet Charge

Hughes' poem exemplifies the terrifying, disorientating, traumatic reality of war for soldiers.

Key vocabulary		Key poetic terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anonymous Confusion Critical Desperation Disorientated Frantic Humanity Ideals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instinct Pain Patriotism Questioning Struggling Terror Universal figure Violence Vivid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caesura Consonance Enjambment In media res Irregular rhythm Simile Third person Violent imagery

Quotation	Analysis
'his terror's touchy dynamite'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The harsh alliteration of "terror's touchy" highlights the fragmented sound of the last line and the impact of the conflict on the soldier's psyche. The metaphor "dynamite" suggests that the soldier's trauma is explosive and his mental health is fragile.
'a yellow hare that rolled like a flame'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The simile reminds us of the violence inflicted on nature and humans by conflict. The symbolism of the hare suggests the innocence caught up in war: the fast animal mirrors the running soldier. The symbolism of the 'yellow' could be an indication of the feelings of cowardice the soldier experiences as he questions the rationale for war.
'lugged a rifle numb as a smashed arm'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The simile reminds us of the feelings of futility that the soldier has: his weapon feels useless in the face of the enemy. The symbolism of the "smashed arm" implies the violence and brutality of conflict on the soldiers – the war is obliterating the men and their hopes.
in medias res (structure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hughes chooses to start the poem in medias res to highlight the sudden action of the charge and the chaotic nature of war.

9. Remains

Armitage demonstrates both the dehumanisation that occurs under the conditions of war but also the inability of soldiers to act clinically, suffering instead inevitable psychological disintegration as a result of violence.

Key vocabulary		Key poetic terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alone • Anecdotal • Colloquial • Confession • Desensitised • Gory • Graphic • Guilt • Haunted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health • Personal • Psychological • Responsible • Suffering • Uncertainty • Veterans • Vivid • Vulnerable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colloquial • Volta • First person • Collective pronoun • Singular pronoun • Repetition • Adverb • Enjambment • Graphic imagery • No regular rhyme

Quotation	Analysis
"probably armed, possibly not"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The refrain (repetition of this phrase) suggests that the ambiguity caused by doubting the justice of his actions haunts the soldier. • The use of the adverbs of possibility casts uncertainty on the soldier's actions: he is traumatised by whether he should have shot the victim. • The motif of body parts is replicated here with "armed": the word implies use of a weapon, but also links to the "guts" and "blood-shadow" of the victim.
"His blood-shadow stays on the street"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The metaphor of the shadow implies that the image of the victim dying is imprinted on his brain and he can't remove it. • The symbolism of the blood links with guilt that the soldier feels in relation to the incident. • The verb "stays" and the sibilance of the repeated "s" sound implies a sinister echoing that the soldier can't get rid of this from his memory.
"His bloody life in my bloody hands"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pronouns "his" and "my" imply that the soldier is accepting of the role he has played in causing death. • The allusion to 'Macbeth' "bloody hands" links to the guilt that the soldier feels about the death. • The repetition of "bloody" implies the ambiguity: it could mean violence or a cursing of the situation.

10. Poppies

Weir's nostalgic and emotional response of the persona's reaction to her son leaving criticizes conflict's impact on the family unit in 'Poppies'.

Key vocabulary		Key poetic terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambiguous • Anxious • Childhood • Chronological • Domestic • Emotional • Fear • Fearful • Freedom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innocent • Lonely • Loss • Maternal • Non-combatants • Separation • Strength • Tactile 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambiguity • Caesura • Contrast • Domestic imagery • Enjambment • First person narrative • No regular rhyme • Past tense • Simile

Quotation	Analysis
"The world overflowing like a treasure chest"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The simile emphasises the excitement that the son has to explore the world outside of his home. "Treasure chest" symbolises the lure and attraction of an exciting life in the forces. • The emotive verb "overflowing" could mirror the overwhelming grief and sadness that the mother feels at the loss of her son.
"spasms of paper red"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The symbolism of the colour red links with the danger and wounds of conflict. • The noun "spasms" links to the semantic field of damage and wounds in the poem. 'Spasms' suggests a violent and uncontrollable action which might foreshadow the damage caused by conflict. • The iconic image of the paper poppy symbolises remembrance and loss in conflict.
"released a songbird from its cage"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The metaphor of the songbird implies freedom and the joy that the son has in leaving home. • It also suggests that the son is the mother's joy and she has let him go from her life. • The semantic field of prison "released" and "cage" implies that the son would have been trapped at home and therefore made miserable.
"Sellotape bandaged around my hand"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The metaphor of the bandage foreshadows the damage that will be done to the persona and the family unit by her son's loss. • "Sellotape" is part of the motif of homely actions (linking with "making tucks", "smoothing" the collar and "ornamental stitch") to indicate the persona's close connection with her son.

11. War Photographer

Duffy exposes the commodification of war and criticizes society's apathy towards conflict and trauma while also demonstrating that the chaos and trauma of war can never be fully understood by those living outside of it.

Key vocabulary		Key poetic terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alone • Anger • Apathy • Contrast • Detachment • Duty • Frustration • Guilt • Haunted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horror • Inevitability • Mental health • Non-combatants • Pain • Powerless • Psychological • Reverence • Uncaring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caesura • Cyclical structure • Enjambment • Metaphor • Regular rhyme scheme • Religious imagery • Semantic field • Sibilance • Third person

Quotation	Analysis
"spools of suffering"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sibilance of "spools" and "suffering" sounds sinister and painful, mirroring the trauma of the photographer. • The metaphor of a spool all coiled up implies that the trauma that the photographer has suffered is wrapped up inside of him and hidden. • The emotive noun "suffering" suggests that the experience of the war zone has been harrowing for everyone involved.
"Belfast. Beirut. Phnom Penh."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The list of plosive sounds (repetition of the b and p sounds) is harsh and sounds like the explosive nature of the gunfire/bombing. • The list of place names suggests that conflict is never ending.
"A hundred agonies in black and white."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The metaphor of 'agonies' links with the 'spools of suffering' from the opening; this implies the violence and brutal nature of conflict. • The matter of fact phrase "black and white" suggests that war is presented as straightforward and simple to the outside world and implies that war is being sold through the images and stories bought for newspapers.
Regular form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extremely regular form mirrors the regularity of the photos laid out in the room. It could also symbolise the ongoing and unending list of conflicts (the regularity of war happening).

12. Tissue

Dharker explores the fragility of human power and the ephemeral nature of human constructions through the extended metaphor of paper.

(The poem answers the question 'what rules our lives'?)

Key vocabulary		Key poetic terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art• Clarity• Complex• Constructs• Control• Creation• Fragile• Freedom• Human experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Humanity• Man-made• Money• Permanent• Powerful• Precious• Restrictions• Temporary• Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alliteration• Caesura• Collective pronoun• Direct address• Enjambment• Homonyms• Motif of light• No regular rhyme• Sibilance• Simile

Quotation	Analysis
"pages smoothed and stroked and turned/ transparent with attention"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The sibilance highlights the softness of the paper to show that we wear away paper (our lives) and make it more fragile.• The repetition of 'and' suggests that we care for the information (and people) by touching the pages and stroking them with respect.
"might fly our lives like paper kites"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The simile compares the control that institutions have over our lives with a fragile kite that seems to have freedom.• The modal verb 'might' implies that there is a possibility to escape the control that paper (government, bills, mortgages, work, etc.) have over us.
"grand design"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The symbolism of the 'grand design' links human life with religion, implying that everything about life is planned.• The image links with the artwork and architecture from the previous line, implying that the beauty of life is in its ephemeral and fragile nature.

13. The Emigrée

Rumens uses the narrative of a refugee to demonstrate that nostalgia and memory, even if misplaced, are powerful forces that may even have the power to liberate.

Key vocabulary	Key poetic terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautiful • Certainty • Childlike • Displaced • Idealised • Innocent • Memory • Nostalgia • Positive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End-stopping • Enjambment • First person • Motif of light • No regular rhyme • Past tense • Personification • Repetition • Semantic field • Simile

Quotation	Analysis
"There once was a country..."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ellipsis (...) suggests that this is the opening of a story and that the poem will tell a personal narrative. • The use of the past tense "was" and adverb "once" implies that something has gone and can't be recovered. • The use of the indefinite article "a" implies that this country is deliberately vague – this could apply to any emigrant.
"the bright, filled paperweight"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The metaphor of the paperweight gives us the impression that the city is behind glass and untouchable. • The symbolism of the weight of a paperweight might suggest that her memories are anchored by beautiful images. • The use of the positive adjectives makes us think that the persona is nostalgic about this place/image and can only remember the good aspects.
"impression of sunlight"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The motif of sunlight acts as a refrain and completes every stanza: it symbolises positivity and optimism. • The movement of the motif from abstract "impression" to concrete sensation "tastes" to evidence "proof" implies an increasing resilience in the message, despite the sinister negativity of the 'place'.

14. Checking Out Me History

Agard critiques disempowering colonial attitudes in the British education system, suggesting subjugated people must reclaim their own history and identity.

Key vocabulary	Key poetic terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admiration • Anger • Awareness • Celebration • Celebratory • Childish • Colonialism • Contrast • Empire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frustration • Heritage • History • Identity • Power • Power • Pride • Resentment • Trivialise
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First person • Free verse • Juxtaposition • Metaphor • Motif of light • Oral poetry • Phonetic spelling • Repetition • Rhyming couplets • Standard English

Quotation	Analysis
"Bandage up me eye with me own history"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The metaphor of "bandage" implies damage and wounds, demonstrating the violence of colonialism. Bandages are often white in colour, which may symbolise the disempowering white colonial powers. • The use of dialect in "me" implies that the persona is reclaiming his language identity. • The noun phrase "own history" suggests that the persona feels that his cultural heritage has been removed, leaving him disempowered.
"I carving out me identity"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The metaphor of "carving" implies crafting and making something creative. It suggests that his identity is hidden and has to be discovered. • The verb "carving" also implies that he has to chip away at the education that has covered up his cultural identity. The persona has agency over his past and feelings by the end of the poem.
"a healing star"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The motif of light and fire represents the hope associated with the historical figures from the Caribbean community. • The form of the poem changes when it describes the key figures from black history and becomes more metaphorical and free form to imply that there is a freedom away from the strict controls of the British education system.

15. Kamikaze

Garland demonstrates how family happiness can be disrupted by conflict and cultural pressure, but memory has the power to revolt against oppressive political structures.

Key vocabulary	Key poetic terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence • Beauty • Choice • Consequences • Decision • Duty • Empathy • Failure • Honour • Ironic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature • Ostracised • Patriotism • Personal • Pride • Regret • Shame • Shunned • Contrast • Direct speech • First person • Irony • Metaphor • Natural imagery • No regular rhyme • Repetition • Simile • Third person

Quotation	Analysis
"like a huge flag waved first one way then the other in a figure of eight"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The metaphor of the flag implies the impact of nationalism and cultural pressures on the Kamikaze pilot pulling against the power of nature to persuade the pilot to return to his family. • The symbolism of the figure of eight implies a lack of finality for the persona: she doesn't have closure on her memories of her father. • The indecisive imagery of "first one way then the other" mirrors the change of mind of the pilot.
"And sometimes, she said, he must have wondered/ which had been the better way to die"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final statement questions the cultural expectations of society and the pressures that the persona's family had to shun the pilot. • The ambiguity of "wondered" implies that the persona cannot have closure on her memories and feels guilt about her actions.
"a shaven head/full of powerful incantations"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The imagery of the "shaven head" implies that the pilot has been prepared for sacrifice. • The abstract noun "incantations" suggests the insidious nature of culture and the impact of almost religious sounding chanting to persuade someone to comply with expectations.
narrative viewpoint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The poem splits into three sentences and therefore three sections: • The persona's imaginative interpretation of what her father experienced on his aborted Kamikaze mission (3rd person). • The persona's voice tells what happened in the family on the pilot's return (her experience – in 1st person) • The final statement questions the social conditioning and treatment of her father (returns to 3rd person).