Y11 English Literature Knowledge Organiser Term 2

Box 1 Week 1 Exposure by Wilfred Owen

Themes: Conflict, Suffering, Nature, Reality of War, Patriotism

Tones: Tragic, Haunting, Dreamy

Content, Meaning and Purpose
-Speaker describes war as a battle against the weather and conditions.
-Imagery of cold and warm reflect the delusional mind of a man dying from hypothermia. -Owen wanted to draw attention to the suffering, monotony and futility of war.

Context
-Written in 1917 before Owen went on to win the Military Cross for bravery, and was then killed in battle in 1918: the poem has authenticity as it is written by an actual soldier.
- Of his work, Owen said: "My theme is war and the pity of war".
-Despite highlighting the tragedy of war and mistakes of senior commanders, he had a deep sense of duty: "**not loath, we lie out here**" shows that he was not bitter about his suffering.

Language
-"**Our brains ache**" physical (cold) suffering and mental (PTSD or shell shock) suffering.
-Semantic field of weather: weather is the enemy. -"**the merciless iced east winds that knive us…**" – personification (cruel and murderous wind); sibilance (cutting/slicing sound of wind); ellipsis (never-ending). -Repetition of pronouns '**we' and 'our'** – conveys togetherness and collective suffering of soldiers. -**'mad gusts tugging on the wire**' – personification

Form and Structure
-Contrast of Cold>Warm>Cold imagery coveys Suffering>Delusions>Death of the hypothermic soldier. -Repetition of "**but nothing happens**" creates circular structure implying never ending suffering
-Rhyme scheme ABBA and hexameter gives the poem structure and emphasises the monotony.
-Pararhymes (half rhymes) ("**nervous / knife us**") only barely hold the poem together, like the men.

Box 2 Week 2 Charge of the Light Brigade by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Themes: Conflict, Suffering, Reality of War, Patriotism

Tones: Energetic, Tragic, Haunting

Content, Meaning and Purpose
- Published six weeks after a disastrous battle against the Russians in the (unpopular) Crimean War
-Describes a cavalry charge against Russians who shoot at the lightly-armed British with cannon from three sides of a long valley.
-Of the 600 hundred who started the charge, over half were killed, injured or taken prisoner.
-It is a celebration of the men's courage and devotion to their country, symbols of the might of the British Empire.

Context
-As Poet Laureate, he had a responsibility to inspire the nation and portray the war in a positive light: propaganda.
-Although Tennyson glorifies the soldiers who took part, he also draws attention to the fact that a commander had made a mistake: **"Someone had blunder'd"**.
-This was a controversial point to make in Victorian times when blind devotion to power was expected.

Language
-**"Into the valley of Death"**: this Biblical imagery portrays war as a supremely powerful, or even spiritual, experience.
-**"jaws of Death"** and **"mouth of Hell"**: presents war as an animal that consumes its victims.
-"**Honour the Light Brigade/Noble six hundred**": language glorifies the soldiers, even in death. The 'six hundred' become a celebrated and prestigious group. -"**shot and shell"**: sibilance creates whooshing sounds of battle.

Form and Structure
-This is a ballad, a form of poetry to remember historical events – we should remember their courage.
-6 verses, each representing 100 men who took part. -First stanza tightly structured, mirroring the cavalry formation. Structure becomes awkward to reflect the chaos of battle and the fewer men returning alive. -Dactylic dimeter (**HALF-a league / DUM-de-de)** mirrors the sound of horses galloping and increases the poem's pace.
-Repetition of **'the six hundred'** at the end of each stanza (epistrophe) emphasises huge loss.

Box 3 - Week 3	**Bayonet Charge by Ted Hughes**
Themes: Conflict, Power, Reality of War, Nature, Bravery, Patriotism	**Tones:** Bewildered, Desperate, Dreamy
Content, Meaning and Purpose -Describes the terrifying experience of 'going over the top': fixing bayonets (long knives) to the end of rifles and leaving a trench to charge directly at the enemy. -Steps inside the body and mind of the speaker to show how this act transforms a soldier from a living thinking person into a dangerous weapon of war. -Hughes dramatises the struggle between a man's thoughts and actions.	**Context** **-**Published in 1957, but most-likely set in World War 1. -Hughes' father had survived the battle of Gallipoli in World War 1, and so he may have wished to draw attention to the hardships of trench warfare. -He draws a contrast between the idealism of patriotism and the reality of fighting and killing. ("**King, honour, human dignity, etcetera"**)
Language **"The patriotic tear that brimmed in his eye Sweating like molten iron"**: his sense of duty (tear) has now turned into the hot sweat of fear and pain. "**cold clockwork of the stars and nations"**: the soldiers are part of a cold and uncaring machine of war. **"his foot hung like statuary in midstride."**: he is frozen with fear/bewilderment. The caesura (full stop) jolts him back to reality. **"a yellow hare that rolled like a flame And crawled in a threshing circle"**: impact of war on nature – the hare is distressed, just like the soldiers	**Form and Structure** -The poem starts 'in medias res': in the middle of the action, to convey shock and pace. -Enjambment maintains the momentum of the charge. -Time stands still in the second stanza to convey the soldier's bewilderment and reflective thoughts. -Contrasts the visual and aural imagery of battle with the internal thoughts of the soldier = adds to the confusion.

Box 4 Week 4 An Inspector Calls

The Birling family are holding a dinner party to celebrate the engagement of Sheila to Gerald Croft.
Not *everything* is perfect: Mr Birling is a bit too anxious to impress Gerald, Eric seems rather nervous and Sheila playfully rebukes Gerald for not having come near her the previous summer.

When the ladies leave the men to their port, Mr Birling has a 'man to man' chat with Gerald and Eric, advising them that a man needs to look after himself and his own family and not worry about the wider community. The Inspector enters and is an impressive man.

He questions Birling who eventually admits that he knew Eva Smith who he sacked for striking to slightly raise wages. Birling feels justified in sacking her, saying he paid the usual rates and feels that he has nothing to do with her suicide. The Inspector interviews Sheila. Sheila complained about Eva Smith's rudeness when she worked in the clothing shop, Millwards, and insisted she was sacked. Sheila is more receptive and willing to accept responsibility.

When the Inspector announces that Eva Smith changed her name to Daisy Renton, it is clear to Sheila that Gerald also knew her. Sheila insists to Gerald that he must admit his involvement and is clear that the Inspector will already know about it.

"You're just the kind of son-in-law I always wanted to have." Birling
"Lower costs and higher prices" Birling
"unsinkable, absolutely unsinkable" Birling
"You'd think everybody has to look after everybody else" Birling
"A chain of events" Inspector

Box 5 Week 5 An Inspector Calls

The Inspector returns where Sheila and Gerald are talking. Gerald asks Sheila to leave but Sheila wants to remain. Gerald incorrectly asks Sheila if the reason she wants to make him suffer the guilt of Eva/Daisy's death is because had to suffer, too. Mrs Birling is embarrassed when Sheila and Gerald tell her that Eric is regularly drinks alcohol heavily.

Gerald says he met Eva/Daisy, who introduced herself only as Daisy, at a bar where he assumed she was a prostitute, and where a lecherous older man had cornered her. Gerald defended Eva/Daisy from the and she was grateful. He arranged for her to live at a friend's flat in town, saying he did not initially support the girl in order to have an affair, but she did become his mistress. Their affair lasted for some months.

They knew that the relationship would end and Gerald told her they could no longer see each other. Gerald says that, though he feels guilty for lying to Sheila, he "did what any man would do". The Inspector informs him that she had gone away for two months to the seaside, to think about what had happened. Sheila returns the engagement ring.

Mrs Birling is appalled by Gerald's behaviour and then is questioned herself while Eric is still out of the room. She was a chairperson on the Brumley Women's Charity Organisation where she refused to help Eva Smith when she came to them for help, pregnant. At the end of Act Two, they realise that Eric was the father of Eva Smith's baby just as Eric enters.

"I was sorry for her…I didn't ask anything in return" Gerald
"She was – very gallant – about it." Gerald
"Unlike the other three, I did nothing I'm ashamed of." Mrs Birling
"Go and look for the father of the child. It's his responsibility." Mrs Birling

Box 6 Week 6 An Inspector Calls

With Eric back in the room, Sheila points out what all the characters now know that Mrs Birling's speech against the father of Eva Smith's child will force her to condemn Eric. Eric admits that he was very drunk the first night he met the Eva Smith.

Eric admits to beginning an affair with the her, after following her back from the bar one night, and convincing her to let him into her room. Eric says that, after several such meetings, the girl tells him that she is pregnant. To support her with money, Eric steals from Birling's company, collecting payments from customers without putting the payments in the office. Birling is furious.

With the family in a state of argument and pain, the Inspector blames each of them each in turn for a share of the guilt regarding Eva/Daisy's suicide. Before leaving the house, the Inspector tells the Birlings that all people are "one body," and that people must help and look out for one another if society is to survive.

The Inspector leaves. Birling says that Eric is primarily at fault for the family's situation. Arthur worries that there will be a "public scandal" made of the family's relationship to Eva Smith's death. Eric criticizes Birling for worrying about his potential knighthood, considering that Eva/Daisy is dead.

Sheila also criticises her parents and says that in thinking about their reputations, they are trying to move beyond Eva/Daisy's suicide and pretend that nothing terrible happened. Eric reminds Birling about the speech he gave to before the Inspector's arrival, about how men should "look out for themselves.