Disabled

The poem depicts the contrast of the soldier before he went to war, and after he returned home injured.

Complete the comparison table below with quotes from the poem:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Before | After |
| ‘One time he liked a blood-smear down his leg’ | ‘And leap of purple spurted from his thigh’ |
| ‘About this time Town used to swing so gay’ |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

Identifying examples from the poem:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Point | Quote(s) and analysis |
| The soldier was physically and sexually attractive. |  |
| The soldier was a skilled sportsman. |  |
| The soldier had an idealistic and naïve view of war. |  |
| The soldier has lost his youth. |  |
| The soldier is treated very differently now.  |  |

Structure

Consider the examples on the PowerPoint about structure.

In the space below, explain and analyse what Owen achieves through his use of structure.

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Imagery

Analyse the examples of imagery. The first one has been done for you:

This cannot be changed. He will never experience the life promised to him.

Metaphor: he has been robbed of his youth. He is waiting for death.

‘Now, he is old; his back will never brace;’

He cannot sit or stand up straight. The connotations of standing straight include: pride, success, power. Owen suggests he will never know these feelings again.

He is probably only a year older than he was when he signed up for the war. But, Owen suggests that the war was the death of childhood, adolescence and innocence. Furthermore, for this soldier, his mind and body have suffered far more than his age suggests.

And shivered in his ghastly suit of grey,
Legless, sewn short at elbow.

And girls glanced lovelier as the air grew dim, -
In the old times, before he threw away his knees.

He's lost his colour very far from here,
Poured it down shell-holes till the veins ran dry,

One time he liked a blood-smear down his leg,
After the matches carried shoulder-high.

To-night he noticed how the women's eyes
Passed from him to the strong men that were whole.

Tone

Select the adjective you feel best describes the tone of the poem.

Regretful Resentful Accusatory Solemn Respectful

Explain your choice with reference to the poem:

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Tasks:

You are the soldier at the end of the poem. As you wait, write a letter to Meg telling her where you are and what has happened to you.

**Speaking and Listening**: In pairs, take on the roles of reporter and nurse. The reporter interviews the nurse about this soldier. Devise the questions and responses.

**Possible coursework questions:**

How does Wilfred Owen create a sense of resentment in his poem, ‘Disabled’?

How does Wilfred Owen challenge the concept of a hero?