

War Poets Collection



Teachers Notes

The resources in this education pack have been created to encourage the development of critical historical enquiry and interpretation skills for students of Intermediate-2 and Higher level history. Some of the activities also cross over into the English syllabus, particularly in examining the relative importance of creative literary works (poetry and prose) as a primary source in our interpreting people within a society of the past.

Students will engage with a range of primary evidential sources in order to explore and challenge the variety of interpretations and perspectives available when studying the First World War. This will include a consideration of events from a local, national and international context and, by contrast, the individual's role, responsibilities and reactions to these events in society.

Resources can be used by your students as additional classroom work or at home as part of personal study.

This resource pack contains:

- An online interactive resource with two supplementary PDFs as additional interpretation materials
- Two accompanying PDF worksheets for student use

A more detailed breakdown of each of these resources, including suggestions for interesting discussions and further links is included below

The Monster Within

The Hydra was the magazine of Craiglockhart Military Hospital. Established in 1917, it was produced by and for the patients of the hospital and is therefore a unique primary source in offering us a unique insight into the everyday activities and the minds of these men, and their attempts at recovering from the trauma of war.

The main aim of this interactive resource is to encourage your students' skills in visual and textual analysis and a close consideration of challenging material in order to form personal interpretations, based on evidence.

Students follow a detailed interpretation of The Hydra in order to try and uncover what deeper meaning may lie at its core. Beginning with a visual analysis of the symbolism and significance of Adrian Berrington's

"pleasing and artistic cover", students are encouraged to explore what is beneath the covers of the magazine, looking at the words from the patients themselves, in order to try to derive a further layer of meaning and ultimately consider the magazine's overarching function for patients and medical staff at Craiglockhart.

The final conclusion supports an improved knowledge of the experiences of the patients, the types of treatment available and the innovations in psychiatry that occurred at Craiglockhart during the First World War. It also promotes an understanding that primary sources are open to interpretation and should be challenged. The two supplementary PDFs extend the interpretation out to your students. The first PDF is a more basic Visual Interpretation, looking at the cover and deriving meaning from its symbolism and aesthetic treatment, for students at Intermediate-2. The second PDF is a more detailed and challenging Further Interpretation, for Higher Level, which provides a stimulus for further independent study, essays or group discussions.

The Hydra

This PDF worksheet is a good supplement to the interactive resource *'The Monster Within'*. Looking closely at a variety of drawings, poems and prose works from The Hydra, students are encouraged to think critically and interpret the sources to illuminate a better understanding of the personal experiences of shell shock patients at Craiglockhart.

Students are also encouraged to consult the comprehensive issues of *The Hydra* on Edinburgh Napier University's website.

This resource introduces a critical examination of a primary historical literary and visual source as well as a close consideration of its prose and poetry to build up a better understanding of the work at Craiglockhart and a unique insight into the effects of war on the individual.

Britons! It's your Duty

This PDF worksheet allows students the opportunity to closely compare and contrast two very different, yet very similar, First World War posters.

Students will study how various techniques have been used to persuade, and sometimes fool, the reader into taking notice. This, they will find out, has been done through a clever use of font sizes and an ingenious image.

Further research can be undertaken online, which will highlight how resources such as posters, photographs, poetry and a range of other media have been used to convey both sides of an argument.

Discussions

Lively debate is actively encouraged at Intermediate-2 and Higher level history. These resources encourage a high level of independent thought and provoke a consideration of the First World War and its effects on the individual from a number of challenging viewpoints.

There are many opportunities within the Intermediate-2 and Higher level resource pack for stimulating discussions in small or larger groups. Any of the questions from the PDFs and the interactive resource in this pack can be used as a stimulus for discussion using the primary sources included and any additional found via the suggested links. Discussions could also form the basis for an essay, or independent research topic.

Further Links

Schools WW1

The Secondary section of this BBC website includes activities, videos, animations and resources aimed at Secondary School pupils to help develop themes introduced in this education pack and further the educational opportunity for studying World War One. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/0/ww1/25826265>

Early 20th Century 1901 - 1918

This National Archives website contains a fantastic range of resources including documents, photographs, film and sound recordings, worksheets and further study opportunities. Resources can be filtered by Key Stage and by resource type. <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war/>

Learning Resources

The Imperial War Museum has an excellent website providing a unique and richly varied source of materials including posters, letters and documents that set the First World War in its historical context.

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/learning/resources>

