Writing a World War Two Poem

You are going to write a poem based around World War Two.

You can either write a poem based on the Blitz, as we have looked at this week or write one about the soldiers' experience fighting in the war.

You may want to do some research about this first, either to find a key event from the Blitz to talk about or to find out more about what it was like to be a soldier fighting in the war.

Writing a World War Two Poem

In this poetry unit, we have practised two key ways to begin writing a poem.

1) To base it on an existing poem and use this to help structure your own poem.

2) To decide on a topic and then write down key words to do with that topic that you can then include in your own writing. Remember, they need to be interesting and powerful.
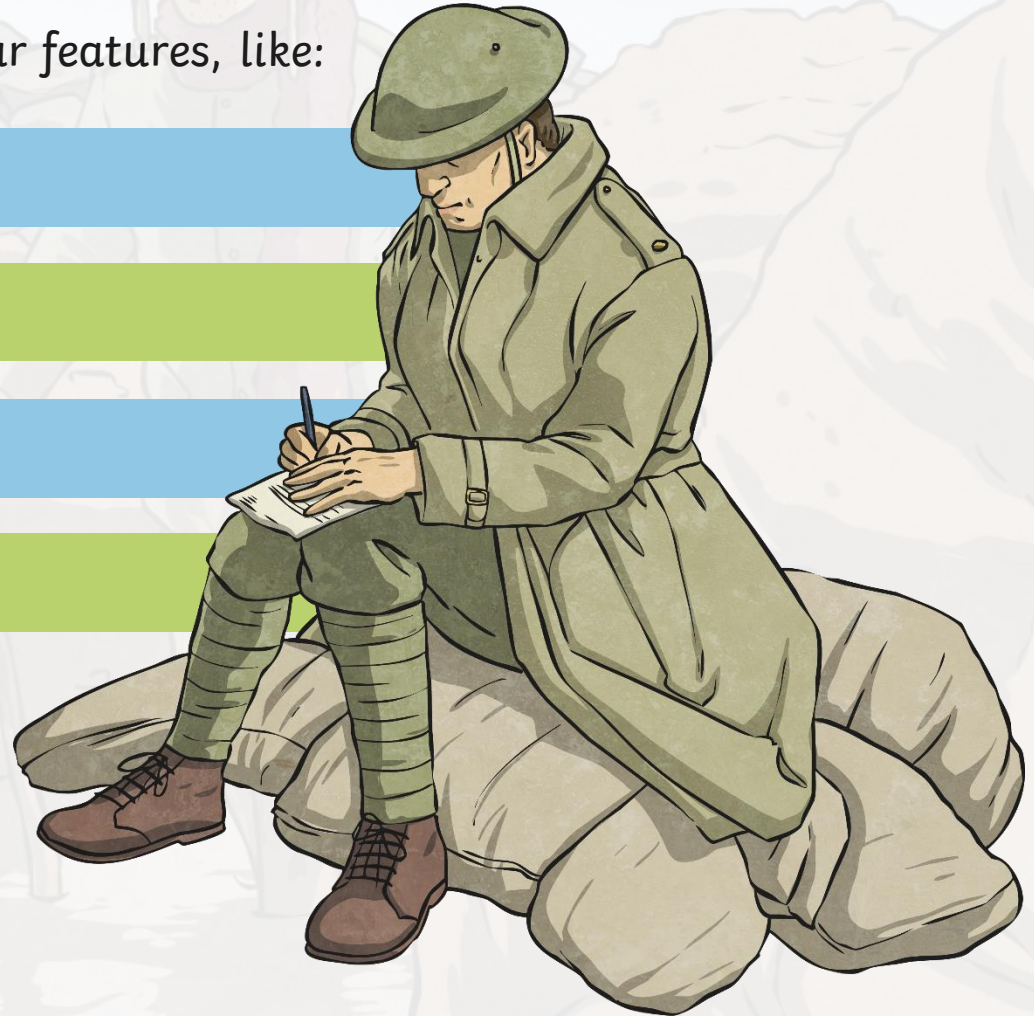
How to Begin

War poems often have similar features, like:

Effective words

Aural and visual language

Emotive language

Attention to detail

Effective Words

You want your poem to depict what war would be like.

Think about some effective words like:

sinking mud	rotten boots	scars	unblinking eyes

heavy legs	lifeless	trudge

Think about the image you are creating with these words.

Aural and Visual Language

You want your poem to depict what war would be like.

Think about some effective words like:

- **Onomatopoeia** – words that sound like the sound they make such as 'bang' or 'pop'. These words reflect the sound of the battle.

- **Alliteration** – repetition of a consonant sound which would indicate the sound of the bombs dropping or guns.

- **Simile** – describing something as like or as something else (to describe how the soldiers looked/felt/were injured).

- **Personification** – giving objects or things human qualities (to make the weapons/war seem more frightening).

- **Rhyme** – sound patterning and rhythm (to reflect the sound of the war).

Think about the image you're creating with these words.

Emotive Language

Begin your poem with a dramatic opening line, like:

"The soldiers **marched**, trudging like **burdened** men, bombs crashed and …"

Try changing the words in bold to see if it makes a difference – you may want to try a number of combinations to see which is most effective.

Or you may need to change a word altogether. Use a thesaurus if necessary. You may find more interesting word choices.

Attention to Detail

Often poets talk generally about the horrors of war, but then zoom in on a specific detail.

For example:

"And the wild chattering of his broken teeth." OR "Eyeballs, huge-bulged like squids."

Adding detail like this adds a powerful effect.

Writing a World War Two Poem

Now have a go at drafting your poem.

Once you are happy with it, write up a final copy and decorate it suitably.

Please remember to email this to me @ catherine.back@school360.co.uk

by Monday 18th May.