

Poetry as a Response to Conflict and Trauma: The Poems of Wilfred Owen, Rupert Brooke, and Edward Thomas

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People have used poetry as a means to understand and express their feelings. Feedback to the misery, hardship and confusion linked to war has always been an important use of poetry; it has helped many cope with what they experience. Many poems were written during the First World War by poets who wanted to express the suffering of soldiers. Among the poets of the time, Wilfred Owen, Rupert Brooke and Edward Thomas are especially noteworthy. All these writers discussed the war in personal ways, highlighting the mental and physical damage it had caused.

Wilfred Owen: Exposing the Brutality of War

Many consider Wilfred Owen's poems to be among the leading literary accounts of war horrors. Owen was in World War I and witnessed the harshness of battles directly. He writes about war by showing the cruel and gory reality soldiers experienced. In one of his major poems, *Dulce et Decorum Est*, he explains how soldiers were victims of gas attacks and saw soldiers die in the gas. At the close, the poem concludes with a note that praising death for one's country as honorable is indeed a lie. Owen's poems reveal the truth of combat, so we cannot deny the damage war does to soldiers.

His poem *Anthem for Doomed Youth* describes how young soldiers die without people caring for or noticing them. He shows how war has a psychological effect on those who survive. Owen uses his verse to tell us that the real face of war is not something noble, but full of hardship and sacrifice.

Rupert Brooke: The Idealistic View of War

Brooke's poems are much more patriotic and positive about war than Wilfred Owen's. Brooke fought in World War I, but in the early stages, he was infected and died before seeing the worst that fighting could cause. The poem *The Soldier* is famous for highlighting the pride and honor people hold when sacrificing their lives for their nation. The poem implies that England will hold a piece of any land where its soldier is buried. At that time, many soldiers viewed war as a noble thing which is shown in these films.

A subtle gloom can also be found in Brooke's poems. While he mentions how important sacrifice is, he wrote his works years before the real costs of fighting in war were understood. His poems focus on the feelings of soldiers before leaving for war and how war goes beyond just losses suffered by a single person. Critics say that Brooke's poems are too optimistic and they do not truly focus on the hardships that came in the future. Nevertheless, his poems show what the soldiers hoped for and what they felt during those first days, before fighting became real.

Edward Thomas: Personal Loss and Reflection

Edward Thomas includes in his poetry both the widespread effects of war and the personal consequences for soldiers. Although he wasn't in combat, Thomas explored how the war touched people emotionally and mentally, as a poet. His poem *Adlestrop* is about a peaceful place in the English country, whereas war was filled with violence. It makes it clear about how quickly things might change which leads people to dread the loss of those special moments.

Thomas again addresses topics like isolation and sadness in *The Owl*. The symbol of the owl in the poem is meant to reflect the deep dread and unknown future waiting for soldiers. Thomas's paintings highlight the conflicts and fear inside many soldiers. Instead of being afraid, he enlisted and unfortunately passed away during the war in 1917. The poems express what soldiers dealt with inside themselves as a result of the war, before and after it happened.

The Impact of War Poetry

We learn from their poems how people react and are changed by the experience of war. All these poetic voices shared how they saw and felt the emotional and physical effects of war. His poetry is honest and direct about the terror of war. Although Brooke's poems suggest a positive view of war, he did not live long enough to learn its real effects. Thomas's poems describe what soldiers go through in terms of loss, fear and grief after experiencing the horrors of battle.

Their words, even though created centuries ago, can still be understood by us today. Wars and other types of conflicts impact many around the world and their poems remind us how much violence costs people. Thanks to their work, we see both the short-term and long-term emotional and psychological effects of war. These pieces demonstrate how poetry can respond to the upheaval of crisis, giving us a way to understand and make peace with our feelings and surroundings.

For Indians who still experience the negative effects of war and understand its value, these poems are an important source of learning. Like Owen, Brooke and Thomas expressed their feelings about war through poetry, we, too, can handle our difficulties by making art, writing or using other creative activities which might help focus attention on the need for reconciliation and peace.