The Émigrée

A displaced person pictures the country/city where they are from. **The lack of specific detail could reflect the poet's desire for the poem to be relevant to many people**

The poem presents a first person account
3 stanzas (8,8 then 9 lines)
Unrhymed, but there is a slight rhythm in places

- 'There once was a country...'
- 'I am branded by an impression of sunlight'
- 'That child's vocabulary I carried here/like a hollow doll'
  - 'banned by the state'
- 'I have no passport, there's no way back at all'

Bayonet Charge

Focusses on a nameless soldier's experience of going 'over the top' - reflecting on the internal thoughts of the character as he does so

Three stanzas
1- action
2 - pause (slow motion?)
3 - back in the action
(See line 15 -

- 'Bullets smacking the belly out of the air'
- 'Patriotic tear'
  - 'Sweating like molten iron'
- shot-slashed furrows/Threw up a yellow hare'
  - Enjambment across two stanzas
- 'King, honour, human dignity'
  - 'dropped like luxuries'

The Charge of the Light Brigade

Tennyson's poem was written 6 weeks after the battle where the group of light infantry were sent into the wrong battle, leading to huge casualties. Tennyson calls for us remember their bravery in following orders

Form: ballad (story, usually negative feelings)
Dactylic Dimeter (reflecting horses hooves)

- 'the six hundred'
  - 'Noble'
  - 'But not/not the six hundred'
  - 'There's not to reason why'
- 'Honour the charge they made'
- 'Into the valley of death'
- 'Half a league, half a league'

War Photographer

Character = war photographer reflecting on the horrors he has seen and the way society feels nothing

Four regular six line stanzas, each stanza ending in a rhyming couplet - rigid structure contrasts the choatic disturbing images

- 'Half-formed ghost'
- 'in his dark room'
- 'spools of suffering'
- 'solutions slop'

Storm on the island

Exploring the power of nature in an isolated and wild landscape, where human settlers are trying to survive, written with a voice of the islanders

19 lines of blank verse (no rhyme or rhythm pattern) follows the pattern of spoken English

- 'We are prepared'
- 'We build our houses squat'
- 'It's nothing that we fear'
- 'Raise a tragic chorus in a gale'

Poppies

Presenting a story of a mother bidding her son goodbye, showing how the relationship has evolved. It focusses on feelings of loss, and draws on images of remembrance

Four stanzas
Dashes
Caesura (mid line breaks/pauses)
Strong sense of **time progressions**

- 'the world overflowing/like a treasure chest'
  - 'you were away, intoxicated'
- 'release a songbird from its cage'
- 'tucks, darts, pleats'
- 'An ornamental stitch'

Ozymandias

A narrator explaining a story they had heard from a traveller of a power hungry ancient King whose city has deteriorated over time, leaving nothing but a broken statue

Form: sonnet
(14 lines, strong rhyme)

- 'King of kings'
- 'shattered visage lies'
- 'Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!'
- 'boundless and bare,/The lone and level sands stretch'

London

Blake lived and worked in London, and wanted to highlight the conditions faced in the city. These elements were often poorly supported.

Strict abab rhyme scheme
4 stanzas which each give a glimpse into different parts of the city, experienced as the speaker walks through

- 'Marks of weakness, marks of woe'
- 'In every cry of every man'
- 'Runs in blood down palace walls'
- 'blights with plagues the marriage hearse'

My Last Duchess

A messenger has been sent to see the Duke - the Duke shows off by showing a painting of his late wife. (He makes comments that she was perhaps unfaithful. Hints at killing her?)

Dramatic monologue (one person speaking) written in **iambic pentameter** and in **rhyming couplets.** Enjambment and punctuation make this rhyme scheme less obvious, meaning the poem reflects a conversational/speech like tone

- 'That's my last Duchess painted on the wall'
- 'A heart - how shall I say? - too soon made glad'
- 'her looks went everywhere'
- 'she ranked/My gift of a nine-hundred-years-old name/with anybody's gift'

Kamikaze

A female narrator telling her children the tale of their grandfather: a Kamikazee pilot during WW2 who went against orders to return home, and was shunned by those around him

A narrative poem - it explores the moment that the pilot's decision is made and sketches out the consequences of this on his life.

- 'a samurai sword/in the cockpit'
- 'little fishing boats/strung out like bunting'
- '-yes grandfather's boat-'
- 'they treated him/as though he no longer existed'
- 'he must have wondered/which had been the better way to die'

Remains

A conversational poem with the voice of a troubled soldier, telling us about witnessing a shooting, and being troubled by it afterwards.

Eight stanzas
First 7 = unrhymed quatrains
Final = two lines (which therefore stand out)

- 'the drink and the drugs won't flush him out'
- 'his bloody life in my bloody hands'
- 'probably armed, possibly not'
- 'His blood shadow stays on the street'

Exposure

Owen's poem gives a voice to soldiers fighting in the trenches. It reflects the hopelessness felt by those who felt abandoned to their deaths

Eight stanzas of 5 lines. Last line of each is shorter and indented (emphasise importance?)

Many rhetorical questions and repetitions are used

- 'merciless iced east winds that knife us'
- 'Like twitching agonies of men among its brambles'
- 'is it that we are dying?'
- 'For love of God seems dying'

Extract from 'The Prelude'

An extract from Wordsworth's **epic poem** - focussing on events from the life of one person.
In this extract, the poet explores going out in a boat at night and how this had a profound impact on him

'The Prelude' is a larger text, an **epic poem.**
This extract is a short section - 44 lines in blank verse, reflecting the conversational/storytelling style

- 'One summer evening (led by her)'
- 'heaving through the water like a swan'
- 'a huge peak, black and huge'
  'Towered up'
- 'o'er my thoughts/There hung a darkness'

Checking Out Me History

A first person narrator telling us about his education and upbringing in a society that prioritised white history/culture (historical figures, nursery rhymes, myths) meaning his own cultural identity was neglected - the poem makes reference to many historical figures from both cultures

Non-standard phonetic spelling
(Spelt as words sound) to represent accent

Alternates between two structures
Repetition (dem tell me) - white version of history - strong rhyming scheme
Stories of three black historical figures told in abbreviated syntax, shorter lines and irregular rhyme

- 'dem tell me/ what dem want to tell me'
- 'Blind me to me own identity'
- 'never tell me bout Nanny de maroon'
  - 'Fire-woman'
  - 'hopeful stream'
  - 'freedom river'
- 'I'm carving out me identity'

Tissue

Paper is used an extended metaphor to describe the power and weakness of life itself (and the ways we record existence)

Lacks regular rhyme/rhythm - can be seen to reflect irregularity of life and flimsy nature of paper

Enjambment between lines/stanzas - adds to the flowing delicate nature of life/paper

- 'the back of the Koran, where a hand/has written the names'
- 'If buildings were paper, I might/feel their drift'
- 'Slips from grocery shops'
  'might fly our lives like paper kites'
- 'trace a grand design/with living tissue'
  - Enjambment across 2 stanzas