

Wilfred  
owenpsychology



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Wilfred Owen focuses on the experience of war through the eyes of a soldier. By providing a first hand experience he is able to share and construct a reality of war that is credible and rich in experience. Although war can be a foreign subject to many Owen illustrates its reality to life for the reader through an intense focus on the human experiences of fear and pain.

Owen then goes on to build this reality by exploring the natural human reaction to these experiences, which provides insight to the desperation of these soldiers. And finally Owen captures war by illustrating the everlasting effects war had on veterans. By bringing an acute focus to the aftermath of war Owen elicits feelings of guilt, helplessness and inhumanity from his readers. Owen brings the reality of war to life for the reader through an intense focus on the human experiences of fear pain and grief. Physical pain was inevitable during the time of war, however Owen's magnification of the human experience expresses that suffering can stretch far beyond the physicality's. A single still photo can provide insight of war's physical damage, but because Owen constructs a far more interpersonal experience exploring the mental pain and anguish of these soldiers, it has a far more powerful effect.

Trauma was exhausted when "once an hour a bullet missed its aim" Here Owen paints a picture of isolation for us, an idea that regardless whether the bullet hits or misses a soldier, they would still endure an immense amount of suffering. As a result the readers feel uncomfortable and shamed as they realise that suffering can also lie within the fear of suffering itself, and therefore the "misses teased the hunger of his brain" consequently Owen is constructing for his readers a reality of war through communicating

experiences of the mind rather than simply the body, and as a result shapes wars into monstrousities. Owen then goes on to build this reality but exploring the human reaction to these experiences. In poems such as 'Insensibility' Owen expresses the dehumanizing effect war has when the physical and mental pain becomes unbearable. He states "Happy are men who yet before they are killed can let their veins run cold." Owen endorses that the soldier is better off having no feelings or emotions during war and the survival of war can only be achieved through the suppression of some feeling.

Owen exemplifies the numbness of death and that it was truly everywhere, as if "the alleys cobbled with their brothers" therefore being desensitized is a blessing for these soldiers. Readers enhance their understanding of war and its reality through Owen's confrontation. The desperation in their behaviour provides some insight into the horrendous conditions of war. Owen is able to enhance his reality of war for the readers by contrasting a firsthand experience with misconception and propaganda.

The glorification of war was vital for recruitment. Through poems such as 'Dulce et Decorum Propter' the readers are able to engage with the techniques of propaganda. As if it was a blessing to go to war as expressed in 'Dulce et Decorum Propter' when "he was drafted out with drums and cheers" Owen explores the false idea of war by alluding it with a boy who had a "blood-smear down his leg, after the matches, carried shoulder high" Owen creates a vivid image for the readers of a football player who was recognised as a hero. To these men it wasn't just a game of football but so too a game of popularity.

By juxtaposing present with the past it puts greater emphasis on the tragedy and we therefore, with a heightened understanding are able to mourn the naivety and ignorance of these children. someone said he would look like a god in kilt” and so “ that’s why” “ smiling” they signed his name. not only does this position the reader to feel frustrated but also adds some justification to why so many would go to war if it was as horrid as Owen paints it to be. In addition Owens representation of war is seen as credible and in turn all the more confronting for his readers.

Owen captures war by illustrating the everlasting effects war had on veterans. By bringing an acute focus to the aftermath of war Owen elicits feelings of guilt, helplessness and inhumanity from his readers. Poems such as disabled and mental case paint not only the reality of war, but the reality of its effect. “ he sat in a wheeled chair...legless, sewn short at elbow” here Owen the sheer inhumanity of being confined to wheel chair for the rest of his soldier's life, with a body physically half there, but a mind that's healthy and whole. In addition these men once had “ an artist for his silly face” meaning these men were once attractive, and full of youth.

Owen suggests what a waste for these attractive men to “ throw away their knees” and focuses on everlasting effect its going to have on their life. Her readers above all feel guilty and confronted at thought of how much these men suffered. The notion of dehumanisation is introduced back into Owens work as girls now would “ touch him like some queer diseases” as if these men were abnormal and rather than phrase the men they were resplused. Owen illustrates the reality of war and its impact war on lives by expressing

that the torture and pain of war doesn't not stay at the battlefield but rather follows them home and continues to haunt them for the rest of their lives.

In conclusion Owen provides a confronting and genuine reality of war through his poems. As he draws his attention to its mass inhumanity and all the torture these men endured. A feeling of injustice and inhumanity is given as the readers are positioned to criticise the government and feel guilty as Owen expressed the quality of life was not hugely improved at the returning of these soldiers. As a whole Owen's work illustrates the suffering. And reveals the behind all the propaganda at the core of war is suffering.