GCSE WAR POETRY
COURSEWORK ASSIGNMENT

Explore the portrayal of war in the poetry of William Shakespeare and Wilfred Owen.

Before Agincourt
Dulce et Decorum est

You might like to consider the following:

- The context of the poems
- The attitudes towards war at the time the poets were writing
- The myth of war (glory, honour, patriotism ...)
- The realities of war (death, destruction, horror ...)
- The language and structures the poets use in the poems
- The impact of the poems on you

HOW TO STRUCTURE THIS ESSAY:

1. **INTRODUCTION**
   Introduce the poems generally, and the theme of war. Interest your reader here!

2. **BEFORE AGINCOURT**
   Discuss the poem fully in paragraphs (approx. 4-8). Write about what he is saying, and how he is saying it!

3. **DULCE ET DECORUM EST**
   Do the same for Owen’s poem, making comparisons with Before Agincourt.

4. **CONCLUSION**
   Summarise what the poets are saying about war, and compare the mood of the poems. Then write your own personal response to the poems. How did they make you feel about war? Which did you prefer and why? You don’t need to include specific details here - just discuss the poems as a whole.

REMEMBER

Use the notes you have made on all the poems to help you with this
Use paragraphs and imaginative words
Include a personal response!