Exploring the language of war

Look at these words, taken from a World War One poem.

- How many different groups of words can you find in the poem? Are there any surprises for a war poem?
- Which words are repeated in the poem? What could we deduce from these patterns of repetition?
- What sounds does Owen make use of in the vocabulary of this poem? What effect does this have on the reader?
- What do you think this poem is about?
- What do you think the title of the poem might be, based on its vocabulary?

Extension task

Now write your own poem using only the words above. When you have used a word, you might want to put a line through it.

Once you have done this you can compare it with the original poem by Wilfred Owen. What is similar or different about the two poems? Can you explain how these differences have been created?