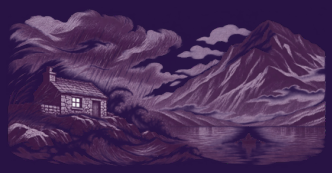
EXPOSURE

Wilfred Owen



WHAT HAPPENS? Waiting soldiers are worn down by cold, fear and a lack of progress.

BIG IDEA **War destroys through exhaustion and waiting as well as battle; nature defeats the promise of military purpose.**

FOUR EVIDENCE FRAGMENTS · ZOOM IN, THEN EXPLAIN

“merciless iced east winds that knive”

Personification

Weather is imagined as a pitiless attacker.

“But nothing happens.”

Refrain

Repeated inaction becomes an account of gradual destruction.

“Dawn massing in the east her melancholy army”

Metaphor

Dawn brings another hostile force rather than rescue.

“All their eyes are ice,”

Metaphor

The final bodily image freezes perception and life together.

FORM

Eight five-line stanzas; recurring shortened endings and pararhyme prevent a reassuring resolution.

CONTEXT

Owen wrote from his experience of the First World War. The collective voice centres soldiers’ suffering.

COMPARE IT WITH…

Storm on the Island: threatening nature. Bayonet Charge: different wartime experiences.

VOICE, TONE & FEELINGS · FOLLOW THE SHIFTS

Opening watch

EXHAUSTED AND ANXIOUS

Silent waiting already causes bodily and mental pain.

Snow and imagined home

NUMB AND ESTRANGED

Dreams of warmth offer no secure escape; the men imagine themselves shut out.

Faith and burial

DESOLATE

Religious doubt and frozen faces replace the expectation of a meaningful advance.

FULL POEM: use your anthology. Evidence fragments are prompts for close reading.

EXAM STASH · examstashhq.com