

Annotating poetry

8 syllables

Suicide in the Trenches

I knew a simple soldier boy

A imagery

Who grinned at life in empty joy,

A imagery

Slept soundly through the lonesome dark,

imagery

And whistled early with the lark.

B imagery

Symbolism

alliteration
[S] foreshadows danger, perhaps represents the sound of bullets

sibilance

Images of a carefree boy; tone - joy, happiness

Juxtaposition

Images of terrible conditions in war, depression → suicide; tone - depressed

In winter trenches, cowed and glum,

C

With crumps and lice and lack of rum,

C

He put a bullet through his brain.

D

No one spoke of him again.

D

His struggle and the sacrifice are futile; no one even remembers him

You smug-faced crowds with kindling eye

metaphor

E

Who cheer when soldier lads march by,

imagery

E

Sneak home and pray you'll never know

F

The hell where youth and laughter go.

metaphor metaphor

F

metaphor

personification

Siegfried Sassoon

1917

This is what war is but the crowds are oblivious

Metaphor to emphasize the country's loss

why? Development; downward

Point of view changes

insults the people

Tone: angry at those who support the war

Indentation of stanzas

Literary devices

"sound" devices

interesting words and phrases

Theme: War is futile; it destroys a country's youth; the society should not encourage young people to go to war