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| **War Poem 1: The Manhunt** * Written about Eddie Beddoes a Bosnian peacekeeper who was shot on a peacekeeping mission
* Bosnia was recovering from a 3 year war and the UN forces were there to assist
* He was 19
* His injuries changed his life
* He endured pain, physical injury and mental suffering
* He suffered post traumatic shock (PTSD)
* No help was available for sufferers of PTSD
* Balloons popping would cause flashbacks to the attack
* His wife Laura helped him overcome his suffering
 | **War Poem 2: The Soldier*** The poem was written as a form of propaganda
* Brookes had not been to war or seen the devastating impact it could have
* The poem depicts what he thinks will happen in WW1
* Written in 1914 the year WW1 broke out
* Brookes died in 1915 while in the Navy but of blood poisoning
* Pre-war optimism comes through in the poem
* Over 20 million men lost their lives
* Bloodiest conflict which was considered to be the war to end all wars
* Shows a naivety in society at the time

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| **War Poem 3: Dulce et Decorum Est** * Sarcastic and realistic depiction of the war
* Owen died at 25
* He was injured and sent home but returned to the front line to continue fighting
* Gas was a particularly horrific way to die
* Trench warfare meant months on the frontline for men
* Brutal and agonising
* Barbed wire tore men to shreds on their own side and on the oppositions side
* Conditions were appalling with men contracting trench foot, sleeping in muddy dug outs and not having clean/dry clothes and footwear. Lice were rife and supplies were limited.
 | **War Poem 4: Mametz Wood** * Sheers is a welsh poet who used the historic battle at Mametz wood to create the poem
* Mametz Wood was a heavily fought over wooded area during the battle of the Somme
* The Battle of the Somme was one of the bloodiest battles recorded with 4,000 casualties and 600 dead
* The battle for Mametz Wood was supposed to only take hours but lasted days
* Men were sent walking to their slaughter
* The welsh were successful, with heavy casualties, however not really commended for their bravery
* Took place in 1916
* Dance macabre was depicted in art and supposed to make viewers reflect on their souls
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| **War Poem 5: A Wife in London** * His first wife influenced his writing greatly
* Trained as an architect after leaving school at 16
* London was enveloped in a thick fog in the 1880s which lasted for days and made visibility impossible
* Hardy is writing about the Boer War in South Africa which was between the British and the Boer settlers
* The war was unmatched with over 400,000 British troops fighting in the war
* 22,000 Boer and 25,000 British men lost their lives
* Many of the Boer troops were untrained and young
* Eventually the Boers surrendered
 | **Nature Poems: To Autumn** * Keats is a romantic poet
* Romantics believed in the power of beauty and that emotion and imagination were hugely important
* He died young
* His girlfriend Fanny Brawne both inspired and tormented him
* He was ambiguous about the amount of time he spent thinking about her
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Context guide for the Eduqas Anthology Main points to remember:

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| **Nature Poems 2: Hawk Roosting*** Hughes was hugely inspired by animals and nature due to his Yorkshire childhood
* The hawk could be a metaphor for religion and its place in society
* Hughes questions creation and the way that it evolved
* The poem was published in the 60s
* 'Lupercal'. The collection of poems in which Hawk Roosting was published takes its title from an ancient, pre-Roman festival celebrating spring
 | **Nature Poems 3: Excerpt from The Prelude** * William Wordsworth (1770 – 1850)
* born in the Lake District which hugely influences his writing and this poem is about how the power of nature influenced him as a child.
* He was an influential Romantic poet.
* His poems along with his sister Dorothy and Samuel Taylor Coleridge's collection The Lyrical Ballads marked the start of the romantic movement.
* Romantics changed the way people thought about art and writing.
* This poem is autobiographical.
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| **Nature Poems 4: Death of a Naturalist*** Heaney won many prizes for this collection
* An Irish poet
* He was said to want to highlight big ideas through the poem
* Could have been influenced by the way perspective changes as you grow older
* He is influenced by nature and experiences with it
 | **Poem of Place 1: Ozymandius*** **Percy Bysshe Shelley** (1792-1822) A Romantic poet influenced by beauty and truth**.**
* Born in Horsham, Sussex, he came from a wealthy family
* Aetheist doesn’t believe in God
* He eloped and married aged 19. Harriet died
* Three years later, Shelley left for Europe with another woman, Mary Godwin (who later became **Mary Shelley** and wrote Frankenstein). Shelley had children by both women.
* Shelley was a 'radical' *Ozymandias* may reflect this side of his character. Literal meaning is the Statue of Ozymandias (another name for the Egyptian pharaoh Rameses II) it can be read as a criticism of people or systems that become huge and believe themselves to be invincible.
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| **Poem of Place 2: Living Space*** Imtiaz Dharker is a contemporary poet who was born in Pakistan and grew up in Scotland.
* She is also a film director and has scripted a number of documentaries in India, supporting work with women and children
* Dharker's intimate knowledge of Mumbai is evident in this poem. She works to raise awareness of issues in other countries.
* Set in the slums this highlights the difficulties of poverty
 | **Poem of Place 3: London** * Published in 1794.
* The *Songs of Innocence* section contains poems which are positive in tone and celebrate love, childhood and nature.
* *The Songs of Experience* poems are obviously intended to provide a contrast, and illustrate the effects of modern life on people and nature. Dangerous industrial conditions, child labour, prostitution and poverty are just some of the topics Blake explores.
* Preoccupied with the Industrial Revolution
* In 1789, the French people revolted against the monarchy and aristocracy, using violence and murder to overthrow those in power.
* Seen as a model for how ordinary, disadvantaged people could seize power.
* Blake alludes to the revolution in *London*.
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| **Poem 1: Valentine** * Carol Ann Duffy (born 1955) is a Scottish poet, was the first female (and first Scottish) [Poet Laureate](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english_literature/poetry_wjec/treatmentofwomen/valentine/revision/1/).
* Born in Glasgow, she moved with her family to Stafford when she was 7, where she was educated.
* She wrote poetry from an early age, and was first published at the age of 15.
* Her poetry has been the subject of controversy.
* Duffy often tackles difficult subjects, encouraging the reader to explore alternative points of view.
* Duffy’s poetry is often feminist in its themes and approach.
 | **Love Poem 2: As Imperceptibly as grief*** By the 1860s, Dickinson lived in almost complete isolation from the outside world, but actively maintained many correspondences and read widely.
* Dickinson’s poetry was heavily influenced by the Metaphysical poets of seventeenth-century England,
* Also influenced by the Book of Revelation and her upbringing in a Puritan New England town, which encouraged a Calvinist, orthodox, and conservative approach to Christianity.
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| **Love Poem 3: She walks in beauty** * A leading poet of the Romantics.
* Romanticism was a general artistic movement (literature, music, the visual arts, etc.) which dominated European culture from the late-18th century until the mid-19th century. Romanticism had many key features among which were:
* a recognition of the influence of the senses and of personal emotion
* that the heart (emotion) is considered more powerful than the head (logic/reason)
* an understanding of the deep power of the natural world
* All of these are features of Byron’s poem.
* Byron is believed to have been inspired to write the poem after seeing a woman with very good looks at a fashionable London party.
* Byron himself had many stormy personal relationships. He was famously described as 'mad, bad and dangerous to know'.
* From the collection *Hebrew Melodies* in April 1815 and was intended to be set to music of a religious nature.
 | **Love Poem 4: Sonnet 43*** A prominent Victorian poet.
* She suffered from lifelong illness, despite which she married the poet and playwright Robert Browning, who was a major influence on her work, and to whom *Sonnet 43* is addressed.
* *Sonnet 43* is part of a longer sonnet sequence of 44 sonnets called Sonnets from the Portuguese.
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| **Love Poem 5: Afternoons*** **Philip Larkin** was a significant 20th century poet whose work is characterised by detailed observations of everyday life and relationships.
* His style is melancholic (the tone can be downbeat), although he is also famous for **celebrating the ordinary**
* He did not marry, had no children, never went abroad and worked as a librarian at Hull University for over 30 years.
 | **Love Poem 6: Cozy Apologia*** American poet, Rita Dove is married to fellow-writer Fred Viebahn and *Cozy Apologia* seems to be an affectionate tribute to him.
* he poem notes details of a couple's domestic life as writers, 'Twin desks, computers, hardwood floors'.
* It is set against the arrival of Hurricane Floyd, a powerful storm which hit the east coast of the USA in 1999.
* This factual, real-life context supports the idea this is an autobiographical poem.
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