

 refers to links on www.crossref-it.info

Investigating 1914

- ❖ Owen alludes to Shelley's poem *The Revolt of Islam* in 1914. From that poem he also takes the title and the idea of *Strange Meeting*.
 - What is Owen's view of the war in 1914?
 - How has his view changed by the time he writes *Strange Meeting*?

Investigating language and tone in 1914

- ❖ Owen's sonnet *1914* is a poem of contrasts. Make a copy of the poem for yourself.
 - Highlight all the words and phrases with positive connotation in one colour.
 - Highlight all the negatives in a contrasting colour.
 - Look carefully at the balance between the two.

Investigating structure and versification in 1914

- ❖ Owen chose to write this poem about the start of the war in the style of an Italian or Petrarchan Sonnet. How well does the structure of this sonnet form suit the subject matter and theme of *1914*?
 - Is there any sense of irony in the fact that Owen uses the sonnet form to write about war?
 - Compare this sonnet with two of Owen's other sonnets: *Hospital Barge* and *On Seeing Our Heavy Artillery Brought into Action*.

Investigating imagery and symbolism in 1914

- ❖ The image of seed time and harvest is one that Owen uses several times in his poetry. Re-read *Exposure* and *Futility*.
 - What does Owen say about spring time in those poems?
- ❖ The poem *The Parable of the Old Man and the Young* also contains imagery of 'the need / Of sowings for new Spring'. Make a note of what all four of these poems have in common.

Investigating themes in 1914

- ❖ 'Of sowings for new Spring, and blood for seed.' What do you think Owen is saying about the need for sacrifice in *1914*?
- ❖ Are Owen's views different in the following poems: *Exposure*, *Futility*, *The Parable of the Old Man and the Young*?