


Wilfred Owen: Investigating *Inspection*

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Investigating *Inspection*

- ❖ *Inspection* is a poem for voices and part of its power lies in the drama of the dialogue. Read the poem aloud with a few friends taking turns in reading each part.
 - Discuss how you felt in each role and make a note of your findings.

Investigating language and tone in *Inspection*

- ❖ *Inspection* can be described as a dramatic dialogue. Compare it with *The Letter*, which is a dramatic monologue, and with *The Dead Beat*, which is another dramatic dialogue.
 - Which of the three do you find most powerful and pitiful? Why?

Investigating structure and versification in *Inspection*

- ❖ Each stanza has its own story to tell as the characters shift in importance. Trace how Owen moves the narrative on throughout the verses, shifting the significance of the characters from the officer to the man.

Investigating imagery and symbolism in *Inspection*

- ❖ Young blood is an important symbol in *Inspection*. Look for references to youth / blood in *Disabled* and *Anthem for Doomed Youth* and compare the different ways in which Owen refers to it in all three poems.
 - What message does he convey through these references?

Investigating themes in *Inspection*

- ❖ Blood, sacrifice and guilt are the main themes in *Inspection*, as they are in many other of Owen's poems. Compare this poem with the references to blood and sacrifice in *Disabled*.
- ❖ Guilt is a more subtle theme. How does Owen present it in this poem?
- ❖ Remind yourself of *The Send Off* and 'wrongs hushed up' and the closing line of *Mental Cases*.
 - How does the theme of guilt, upon which Owen touches in these poems, compare with the theme of guilt in *Inspection*?