


Wilfred Owen: Investigating *Wild with All Regrets*

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All Regrets

Investigating *Wild with All Regrets*

- ❖ This is one of a group of poems set in hospitals or institutions. How does Owen create setting in this poem?
- ❖ Compare *Wild with All Regrets* with *Disabled* and *Mental Cases*.
 - How does the setting of the poems affect the pity in the poetry?
- ❖ Owen subtitles *Á Terre*, which is based on *Wild with All Regrets*, as 'being the philosophy of many soldiers'. What is the philosophy of the dying soldier in *Wild with All Regrets*?
- ❖ Remind yourself of *Strange Meeting*, another poem which demonstrates Owen's philosophy. Compare the philosophy of the two poems.

Investigating language and tone in *Wild with All Regrets*

- ❖ The dying man says that he would love to have been a 'muck-man', then asks why he must be 'his load'. How does this image fit in with the imagery of dirt and dust and death in the poem?
- ❖ 'All blood, dirt and sucked sugar stick.' How far does this poem go towards justifying W.B. Yeats' criticism of Owen's poetry?

Investigating structure and versification in *Wild with All Regrets*

- ❖ In his letter to Sassoon, Owen asks, 'What do you think of my vowel-rime stunt?' Read the poem aloud with a friend. Take an alternate line each.
 - Listen to the way the 'end words' echo each other and make a note of the exceptions.
 - Which pair or trio of lines do you find most moving? Can you say why?

Investigating imagery and symbolism in *Wild with All Regrets*

- ❖ Owen described this poem as a photographic record of a man dying of his wounds. How does Owen use visual imagery to understand the reality of the dying man?
- ❖ Compare *Wild with All Regrets* with *Disabled* and *Mental Cases*, two other poems which describe the aftermath of war. Which most gains your compassion?
 - Justify your answer by examining Owen's technique.

Investigating themes in *Wild with All Regrets*

- ❖ Remind yourself of the poems *Disabled* and *Mental Cases*. In what ways are the themes of both poems similar to *Wild with All Regrets*?
 - How are they different to the themes of *Wild with All Regrets*?
 - Which of the three poems do you feel says most about war and the pity of war? Why?