

	Charge of the Light Bridge – Alfred Lord Tennyson	Bayonet Charge – Ted Hughes	War Photographer – Carol Ann Duffy	Remains – Simon Armitage	Poppies – Jane Weir
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tennyson was poet laureate, meaning he had to write poems about events that affected Britain. This poem celebrates the heroism and bravery of soldiers in the Crimean War. In the Battle of Balaclava, the 600 men of the Light Brigade ended charging down a valley straight into the fire of Russian cannons. Over 150 British soldiers were killed, and more than 120 were wounded. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bayonet Charge is perhaps unusual for a Ted Hughes poem in that it focuses on a nameless soldier in WW1. It describes the experience of 'going over-the-top' - when soldiers were ordered to 'fix bayonets' and charge an enemy position. The poem describes how this process transforms a soldier from a living thinking person into a dangerous weapon of war. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The poem explores the challenge faced by war photographers as their job forces them to record horrific events without being able to help. Duffy asks us to consider our own response when confronted with the photographs, and why so many of us have become desensitised. The poem mentions 'Belfast, Beirut and Phnom Penh' to show how widespread war is. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In preparation for this poem, Armitage interviewed veteran soldiers of different wars. The reference to 'desert sand' in this poem suggests that it is written about the Gulf War. The poem presents a dark and disturbing image of a soldier suffering post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after conflict. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The poem is concerned with Armistice Sunday, which began as a way of marking the end of WW1 in 1918. It was set up so people could remember the ordinary men who had been killed. When Poppies was written, British soldiers were still dying in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. This poem uses one specific instance to comment on all war and conflict.
Key quotes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 'Theirs not to make reply, Theirs not to reason why, Theirs but to do and die.' 'Came through the jaws of Death, Back from the mouth of hell' 'When can their glory fade? O the wild charge' 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 'Bullets smacking the belly out of the air' 'The patriotic tear that had brimmed in his eye Sweating like molten iron from the centre of his chest' 'King, honour, human dignity, etcetera Dropped like luxuries' 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 'spools of suffering set out in ordered row' 'sought approval without words to do what someone must' 'The reader's eyeballs prick with tears between the bath and pre-lunch beers' 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 'probably armed, possibly not' 'I see every round as it rips through his life' 'but near to the knuckle, here and now, his bloody life in my bloody hands' 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 'All my words flattened, rolled, turned into felt, slowly melting' 'the world overflowing like a treasure chest' 'leaned against it like a wishbone'
Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> anaphora – repetition of a word at the start of a line. valour – great courage in the face of danger. tricolon – the rule of three. Arranging words or phrases into threes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in media res – beginning in the middle of the action. patriotism – a feeling of pride in your own country. celebratory – written in praise of something or someone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sombre – dark in tone. dispassionate – not affected by emotion. desensitised – used to seeing shocking things, unaffected by what is seen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> colloquial language – everyday, informal language. allusion – a reference to another text or idea. The final line alludes to <i>Macbeth</i>. trauma – a deeply distressing or disturbing experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> elegy – a poem of serious reflection, often focusing on grief or about death. ambiguous – open to more than one interpretation. mournful – feeling or expressing sadness or regret.