

Timeline of <u>Publication</u>	Key Context for each poem	Structure/ Key Features	Big Ideas/Themes
London (1594)	Reflects the Romantic suspicion of large institutions of Power. Inspired by the French Revolution and anti-establishment ideologies. Reflects issues of crime and poverty in the metropolitan heart of the British Empire .	ABAB alternate rhyme scheme replicates Blake’s footsteps walking through London.	Power of state over individuals; political conflict reinforcing inequalities ; power in revolution.
Ozymandias (1818)	Based on the real statue of Ramesses II, Egyptian pharaoh. An ironic satire of dictatorial power. The statue was being moved to the British Museum in London- the British Empire claiming a symbol of power.	The sonnet form is ironic . It reflects Ozymandias’ love of power and hubris . Shelley is mocking tyrannical leaders.	Even the mightiest will fall; you cannot beat time; pride comes before a fall; power of art and words .
The Prelude (Writing from 1798, published 1850)	Classic Romantic poetry rejecting modernity and praising the power or nature . Poet out walking and feels overwhelmed- The Sublime .	An extract of a larger poem. The continuous enjambment and blank verse reflect the idea of ‘journey’.	Understanding our place in the world; limitations of human power; memory.
My Last Duchess (1842)	Based on (the real) Duke of Ferrara Alfonso whose wife mysteriously disappeared in suspicious circumstances. Seventeen year old Lucrezia was from ‘new money’ House of Medici , whereas the Duke was the heir to a 900 year old dynasty.	Dramatic monologue . The Duke is speaking to an emissary who has come to discuss the Duke’s next marriage but only the Duke speaks. Shows the Duke’s authority and hubris .	Absolute power; power of language and material objects ; control over others; legacy ; generational wealth and status; patriarchy and masculinity .
Charge of the Light Brigade (1854)	Written in response to the Battle of Balaclava in the Crimean War . Glorifies sacrifice to manage the public mood following the unnecessary loss of life following a miscommunication in the chain of command in this battle. .	Lots of anaphora to represent the relentless repetition of the cannonfire in the ‘valley of death’.	Reality of war; celebrates bravery of soldiers and honours the sacrifices they made; propaganda.
Exposure (1918)	WWI anti-propaganda , exposing the truth to the home front. As a soldier, Owen suffered from shellshock and was treated in hospital before being sent back to the front.	Repetition at the end of each stanza. Reflects the boredom and repetition of trench warfare.	Reality of war and resulting death; dismisses the glamorisation of patriotism
Bayonet Charge (1957)	Written about WWI trench warfare . Hughes’ father had fought in WWI. Hughes saw the impact of a ‘ lost generation ’ of men after WWII.	The first stanza uses enjambment to speed up the poem. In the second stanza caesura slows the poem down.	Fear and terror felt by soldiers; questions patriotism and highlights war’s damage to both humans and nature
Storm on the Island (1966)	Written 2 years before The Troubles began in Northern Ireland in 1968- the storm was brewing. The political building Stormont is hinted at in the title.	Extended metaphor . The storm pummeling the Island is a metaphor for the Troubles in Northern Ireland.	Powerlessness of humans; human desire to control vs. nature’s destructive force .
War Photographer (1985)	About Don McCullin, Duffy’s friend and famous war photographer, who documented the Vietnam War , and The Troubles , etc.	The poet uses caesura to force the reader to stop and pause out of respect for those who have lost their lives.	Horrors of war ; internal conflict; memory I morality; home front Vs front line.
Emigree (1993)	Written in the 1993 to reflect rising immigration into the UK - perhaps inspired by news coverage of the mass migration due to the Bosnian War . The speaker is female.	Each stanza ends with a reference to sunlight- perhaps a reflection of the enduring image of ‘home’.	Conflict between memory and reality ; othering and exclusion; human limitations.
Checking out Me History (2005)	Based on Agard’s experiences growing up in British Guyana before it was liberated from the British Empire in 1966.	Parts in italics are intended to be sung. This promotes the idea that the poem is a celebration of identity not a rant.	Limited versions of history; individual identity ; positive role models; power of language; how colonisation and this impact on identity.
Tissue (2006)	Written after 9/11 for an anthology entitled ‘ The Terrorist at my Table ’, Dharker reflects on the fragility of life and the power of politics, religion and money over humanity.	Extended metaphor , paper represents life.	Fragility of human life ; power of paper to change things and record memories; physical symbols of power.
Remains (2008) The Gulf War	Based on the true experiences of Robert, a soldier in Iraq . He spoke about his PTSD experience for a Channel 4 documentary called ‘ The Not Dead ’.	Last stanza is a couplet . Armitage says this could be to represent the dead and the not dead, or to represent the two ‘bloody hands’.	Horrors of war and PTSD ; recurring memories of conflict and killing
Poppies (2009)	Do not confuse the speaker with the poet (Weir did not have a son who went to war). Written for an anthology called ‘Exit Wounds’ when there was significant media focus on flag draped coffins .	The stanzas show the passing of time. Enjambment reflects the mother’s voice and the conversation tone of the poem as she reflects on memories.	Mother’s feelings toward her son growing up ; grief ; parental impulse to protect a child; home front.
Kamikaze (2009))	About young intelligent Japanese WWII Kamikaze pilots who sacrificed themselves in suicide missions for Samurai honour . They were recruited with propaganda straight from Japanese Universities.	Italics indicate the change in speaker,like the daughter is passing the story on. The whole poem is just three sentences. His journey out; his journey back; his life after.	Conforming to social expectations ; internal conflict; familial conflict; propaganda.