

Simply Poetry First World War Poems Simple History

TWO MINUTES' SILENCE

*Two minutes' silence for the dead.
I thought of the fields when the fields were red.
Red, not with poppies but with blood,
The blood of men, the image of God.
Two minutes' silence for the dead.
Stood in the crowd and bowed my head,
Not in reverence but in shame,
At the insult in memory of their name.
Two minutes' silence for the dead.
Last Post is sounding, eyes are red.
But Reveille is sounding for me instead,
Of the Last Post in memory of the dead.*

Sidney Allinson from Canada sent us this poem he collected while researching for his book "The Bantams", supplementary battalions of men less than the normal required height of 5' 3", many of whom had been turned down earlier. Robert Irvine was the author who, like so many others after 1918, failed to find a full time job because of his short stature and thus spent most of his life unemployed.

The tumult and devastation of the First World War left an indelible mark on the world, not only in terms of its human toll but also in its profound impact on literature and art. Amidst the chaos and carnage, poets emerged as

witnesses and chroniclers, capturing the raw emotions, horrors, and fragile humanity that permeated the conflict. *Simply Poetry First World War Poems Simple History* is a captivating collection that offers readers an accessible window into the literary legacy of this transformative era.

A Tapestry of Voices

This anthology presents a diverse range of voices, from renowned poets like Wilfred Owen and Rupert Brooke to lesser-known but equally talented writers. Each poem weaves a unique narrative, providing a glimpse into the experiences and perspectives of soldiers, nurses, civilians, and those left behind on the home front.



Simply poetry, First World War poems (Simple history)

by Daniel Turner

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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Themes of War and Loss

The poems in this collection unflinchingly explore the themes of war and loss. They capture the horrors of the trenches, the shattered lives, and the profound sense of grief that permeated society. Through vivid imagery and poignant language, the poets convey the physical and emotional scars left by the conflict.

The Fragility of Life

Amidst the darkness of war, the poets also illuminate the fragility and resilience of human life. They celebrate the beauty of nature, the bonds of comradeship, and the indomitable spirit that prevailed even in the face of adversity.

The Power of Poetry

Simply Poetry First World War Poems Simple History demonstrates the enduring power of poetry to document, interpret, and give voice to the human experience. These poems serve as a poignant reminder of the cost of war and the transformative effect it had on individuals and society.

Wilfred Owen: A Voice of Protest

Wilfred Owen, one of the most celebrated poets of the First World War, is prominently featured in this collection. His poems, such as "Dulce et Decorum Est" and "Anthem for Doomed Youth," are powerful indictments of the war's horrors. Owen's stark and unflinching depiction of the trenches challenged the jingoistic rhetoric that glorified the conflict.

Rupert Brooke: The War as a Romantic Ideal

Rupert Brooke, another prominent voice in this anthology, initially embraced the war with a sense of romantic idealism. However, his experiences on the frontlines shattered his illusions, and his later poems reflect a more somber and disillusioned view of the conflict.

Women's Voices: Civilian Perspectives

The collection also includes the voices of women, who often played vital roles on the home front as nurses, munitions workers, and caregivers.

Their poems offer a unique perspective on the impact of war on families and communities.

Simply Poetry First World War Poems Simple History is an essential read for anyone interested in the history, literature, and enduring legacy of the First World War. Through its diverse range of voices and poignant themes, this collection provides a profound and moving account of one of the most transformative conflicts in human history.



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