

English Literature – Week Beginning 4th May 2020

Hello,

This week you are going to begin to analyse the poem 'Remains' written by Simon Armitage.

There are a series of tasks for you to follow and this week is about your first impressions of the poem.

Work can be completed electronically or handwritten. Then, it can be emailed to us via the email below. For the handwritten work, take a photo of the handwritten work and send it in this way.

Do not worry if do not understand all of the questions when looking at the poem in more detail – do what you can.

If you have any questions about his work, or you would like to send the work, please email: office@grangepark.kent.sch.uk.

Mrs Dixon and Mrs Shaddock

First Impressions

Task 1:

Come up with a list of alternative words (synonyms) for 'remains.'

Task 2:

1. Read the poem - think about the title as you are reading.

Remains

Simon Armitage

On another occasion, we get sent out
to tackle looters raiding a bank.
And one of them legs it up the road,
probably armed, possibly not.

Well myself and somebody else and somebody else
are all of the same mind,
so all three of us open fire.
Three of a kind all letting fly, and I swear

I see every round as it rips through his life -
I see broad daylight on the other side.
So we've hit this looter a dozen times
and he's there on the ground, sort of inside out,

pain itself, the image of agony.
One of my mates goes by
and tosses his guts back into his body.
Then he's carted off in the back of a lorry.

End of story, except not really.
His blood-shadow stays on the street, and out on patrol
I walk right over it week after week.
Then I'm home on leave. But I blink

and he bursts again through the doors of the bank.
Sleep, and he's probably armed, possibly not.
Dream, and he's torn apart by a dozen rounds.
And the drink and the drugs won't flush him out -

he's here in my head when I close my eyes,
dug in behind enemy lines,
not left for dead in some distant, sun-stunned, sand-smothered land
or six-feet-under in desert sand,

but near to the knuckle, here and now,
his bloody life in my bloody hands.

2. Write down what you think the poem is about.

Task 3: Take a closer look at the poem.

Answer the questions relating to the stanzas.

<p>On another occasion, we get sent out to tackle looters raiding a bank. And one of them legs it up the road, probably armed, possibly not.</p> <p>Well myself and somebody else and somebody else are all of the same mind, so all three of us open fire. Three of a kind all letting fly, and I swear</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who is speaking in these stanzas? 2. Find one poetic technique. 3. <u>Challenge</u>: Explain the effect of the speaker changing from using 'we' to 'I.'
<p>I see every round as it rips through his life - I see broad daylight on the other side. So we've hit this looter a dozen times and he's there on the ground, sort of inside out,</p> <p>pain itself, the image of agony. One of my mates goes by and tosses his guts back into his body. Then he's carted off in the back of a lorry.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Describe what the narrator is telling us here. 5. <u>Challenge</u>: What is the effect of the verb 'rips' here and why is there a pause at the end of the line?
<p>End of story, except not really. His blood-shadow stays on the street, and out on patrol I walk right over it week after week. Then I'm home on leave. But I blink</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. 'End of story, except not really.' Write down your thoughts about this quotation. What does this tell us about the poem so far?
<p>and he bursts again through the doors of the bank. Sleep, and he's probably armed, possibly not. Dream, and he's torn apart by a dozen rounds. And the drink and the drugs won't flush him out -</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. 'probably armed, possibly not' repeats line 4 - why do you think this is repeated? 8. 'torn apart by a dozen rounds' - what does this mean?
<p>he's here in my head when I close my eyes, dug in behind enemy lines, not left for dead in some distant, sun-stunned, sand-smothered land or six-feet-under in desert sand,</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. How does the speaker feel about what has happened?
<p>but near to the knuckle, here and now, his bloody life in my bloody hands.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. The word 'bloody' can be interpreted in two ways, write down what you think they could be. 11. <u>Challenge</u>: 'my bloody hands' - can you think of a character we have studied, which this could link to? Explain your thoughts.

Extension task:

Write down the definitions for each of these.

metaphor	
sibilance	
repetition	
juxtaposition	
couplet	
volta	
hyperbole	
caesura	
dramatic monologue	
colloquial language	
foreshadow	
allusion	
stanza	