

English Literature – Week Beginning 18th May 2020

Hello,

This week you are going to continue look at the structure and form of 'Remains' because you should include structure and form when analysing a poem for GCSE.

There is an extension task to have a go at answering an exam style question.

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 – 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

Remains

by Simon Armitage

On another occasion, we got 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, and 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.

Task:

Look carefully at how the poet has structured the poem and answer the following questions:

1. How many stanzas are there in the poem?

2. How many lines in each stanza?

3. What is the effect of the last stanza?

4. Identify the rhyme scheme in the poem.

5. Why do you think the poet has chosen this rhyme scheme?

6. What is the focus of the first 4 stanzas?

7. Look carefully at the punctuation in the poem. How many full stops are there?

8. Where do the longest and shortest sentences in the poem occur?
Why do you think this is?

FORM Dramatic monologue - middle of conversation (conversational) - soldier telling somebody what happened. Begins with 1st person plural ('we'), changes to first person, singular ('I') and the poem becomes more personal, sounding like a confession. Final couplet - same metre, gives a feeling of finality and hints the guilt will stay with the soldier.

Extension task:

Answer the following question:

How does Simon Armitage present war in the poem 'Remains?'

Remember to include:

- relevant context
- structure and form

- effect on the reader
- writer's purpose