

# ONE SHEET REVISION

'Mametz Wood' by Owen Sheers

Summarise what the poem is about in full sentences:

Annotate the poem with points you can remember from your initial study:

For years afterwards the farmers found them –  
the wasted young, turning up under their plough blades  
as they tilled the land back into itself.

5 A chit of bone, the china plate of a shoulder blade,  
the relic of a finger, the blown  
and broken bird's egg of a skull,

all mimicked now in flint, breaking blue in white  
across this field where they were told to walk, not run,  
towards the wood and its nesting machine guns.

10 And even now the earth stands sentinel,  
reaching back into itself for reminders of what happened  
like a wound working a foreign body to the surface of the skin.

This morning, twenty men buried in one long grave,  
a broken mosaic of bone linked arm in arm,  
their skeletons paused mid dance-macabre

in boots that outlasted them,  
their socketed heads tilted back at an angle  
and their jaws, those that have them, dropped open.

As if the notes they had sung  
have only now, with this unearthing,  
slipped from their absent tongues.

Complete the following questions on context:

- 1) Why is it important to know Mametz Wood was one of the bloodiest battles of World War One?
- 2) Why is it important to know Sheers believed the soldiers' bravery was never acknowledged?
- 3) How is this shown in the poem?

Complete each analytical verb with a different idea:

Sheers may have written the poem:

to criticise

to teach

to warn

to reveal the importance of

to celebrate

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Annotate the following quotations by answering the questions for each:



- 1) What does the line mean?
- 2) What does the line suggest?
- 3) How has Sheers used language to present the impact of war?

*“For years afterwards...”*

*“broken bird’s egg of a skull”*

*“the earth stands sentinel”*

*“socketed heads tilted back at an angle”*

**How does Sheers present the fragility of human life?**

*Answer in full sentences.*