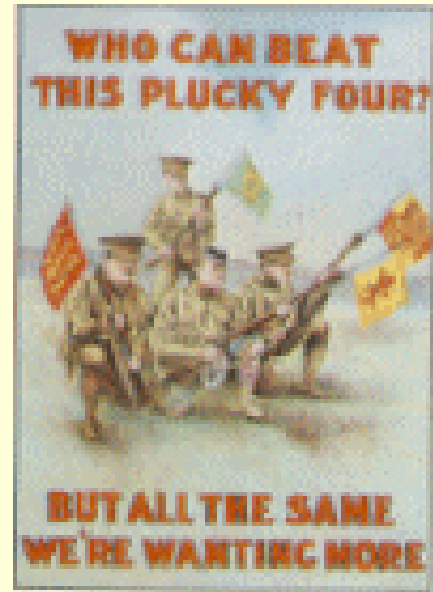


# **‘Anthem for Doomed Youth’**

Wilfred Owen



# Re-drafting the poem

Anthem for <sup>Dead</sup> ~~the~~ Youth - Nation 17

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?  
 - Only the monstrous anger of the guns.  
 Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle  
 Can patter out their hasty orisons.  
 No <sup>music for all them</sup> mockeries for them; <sup>nor</sup> prayers <sup>nor</sup> bells;  
 Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs,  
 The shrill <sup>demanded</sup> choirs of wailing shells;  
 And bugles calling <sup>across the</sup> sad shires.

What candles may be held to speed them all?  
 Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes  
 Shall shine the lily glimmers of goodbyes.  
 And the pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;  
 Their flowers the tenderness of <sup>silent patient</sup> ~~starched~~ minds,  
 And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.

(Final words were written by S.S. when W. Service first the poem at Crisplochan in Sept. 1917.)

Anthem for Dead Youth. 54

What <sup>brimstone</sup> passing-bells for these who die so fast?  
 - Only the <sup>solemn</sup> monstrous anger of our guns.  
 Let the <sup>blind</sup> majestic <sup>insults</sup> of their <sup>own</sup> mouths  
 Be as the <sup>priest</sup> words of their burials.  
 Of choristers and holy music, none;  
 Nor any voice of mourning, save the wail  
 The long-drawn <sup>high</sup> wail of high <sup>far-sailing</sup> shells.

What candles may we hold for these lost? souls?  
 - Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes  
 Shall <sup>shine the</sup> many <sup>flames</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>and</sup> <sup>small</sup> light them.  
 And Women's wide-spread arms shall be their wreaths,  
 And pallor of girls' cheeks shall be their palls.  
 Their flowers, the tenderness of <sup>mental</sup> <sup>rough</sup> <sup>men's</sup> minds,  
 And <sup>each slow</sup> dusk, a drawing-down of blinds.

First Draft  
 (With Service's amendments.)

# Re-drafting the poem

Anthem for Dead Youth. 248

What passing-bells for you who die in herds?  
- Only the iron anger of the guns.  
- Only the stuttering rifles' rattled words  
Can patter out your hasty orisons.  
No chants for you, nor balms, nor wreaths, nor bells,  
Nor any voice of mourning, save the choirs,

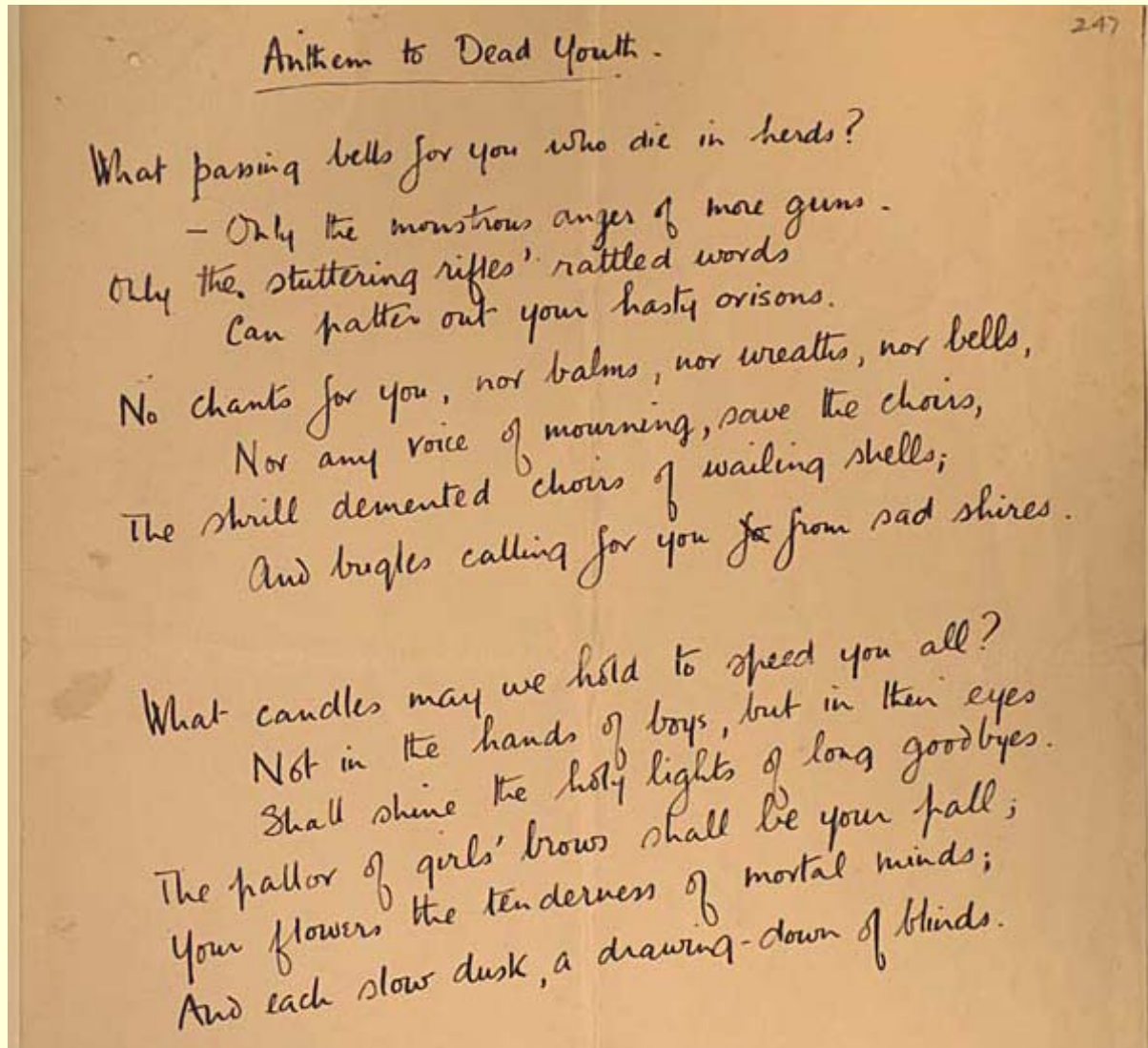
Anthem for Dead Youth. 537

What passing-bells for you who die in herds?  
- Only the ~~monstrous~~<sup>in</sup> ~~anger~~<sup>monotony</sup> of the guns!  
And Only ~~the~~ stuttering rifles' rattled words  
Can patter out your hasty orisons, ~~hasty~~<sup>passing</sup> ~~hills~~  
No wreaths for you, nor balms, nor ~~monks~~<sup>stated</sup> choirs;  
Nor any ~~grievous~~<sup>voice of mourning</sup> ~~cries~~<sup>in</sup>, save of shells,  
And bugles calling for you from your shires,  
Saddening the twilight. These are our farewells.

What candles may we hold to speed you all?  
← Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes  
Shall shine the ~~hazy~~ lights of ~~being~~<sup>you</sup> goodbyes.  
The pallor of girls' brows must be your pall;  
Your flowers: the tenderness of ~~compassion~~<sup>mother</sup> minds;  
And each slow dusk, a drawing down of blinds.

Wilfred Owen.

# The Final Draft – or is it?



# Anthem for Doomed Youth

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?

- Only the monstrous anger of the guns.

Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle

Can patter out their hasty orisons.

No mockeries now for them; no prayers nor bells;

Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs,-

The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;

And bugles calling for them from sad shires.

# Anthem for Doomed Youth

What candles may be held to speed them all?  
Not in the hands of boys but in their eyes  
Shall shine the holy glimmers of good-byes.  
The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;  
Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,  
And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.

# Anthem for Doomed Youth

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?

- Only the monstrous anger of the guns.

Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle

Can patter out their hasty orisons.

No mockeries now for them; no prayers nor bells;

Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs,-

The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;

And bugles calling for them from sad shires.



**P** **Point** **Answers the question**

**E** **Example** **Usually a quotation**

**Ee** **Explain the effect** **Why has the author chosen to use those words? What is the effect on the audience?**

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?

Why did Wilfred Owen choose this simile to describe the men?

P

Wilfred Owen uses a simile to describe the soldiers dying in battle.

E

He writes that the soldiers "die as cattle".

Ee

This simile is effective because it shows that Owen feels that the men were dying without dignity and that the amount of men dying was like the number of cattle being slaughtered.

# Onomatopoeia

**is giving human qualities to animals or objects.**  
**e.g. a smiling moon; dancing flowers**

# Personification

**is the repetition of initial consonant sounds in neighbouring words.**  
**e.g. bouncing ball**

# Alliteration

**is a word which imitates the sound it represents.**  
**e.g. 'splash' sounds similar to the noise of something falling into water.**

Personification

-Only the monstrous anger of the guns.  
Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle  
Can patter out their hasty orisons.

Alliteration

Onomatopoeia

No mockeries now for them; no prayers nor bells;  
Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs,-  
The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;  
And bugles calling for them from sad shires.

Personification

Metaphor

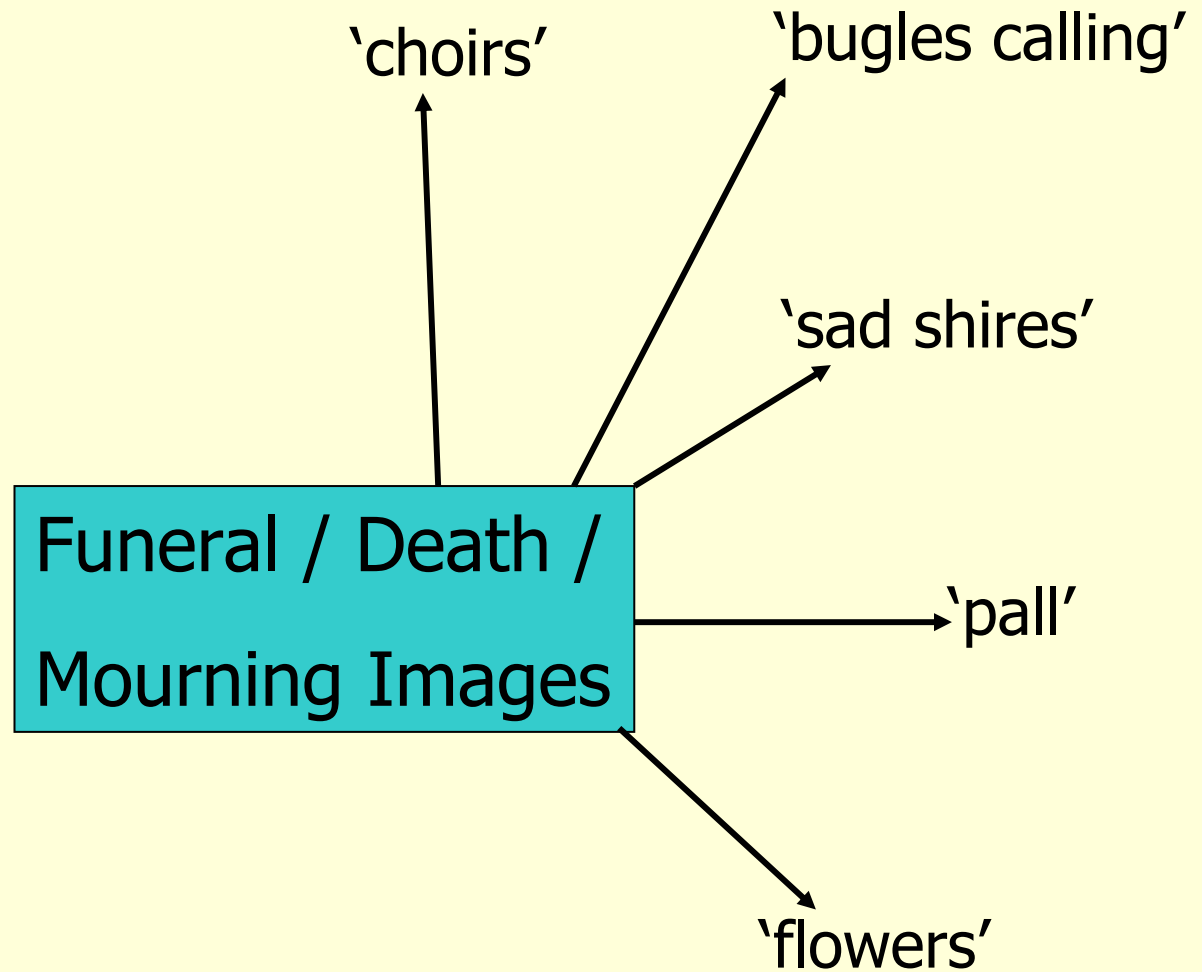
Onomatopoeia

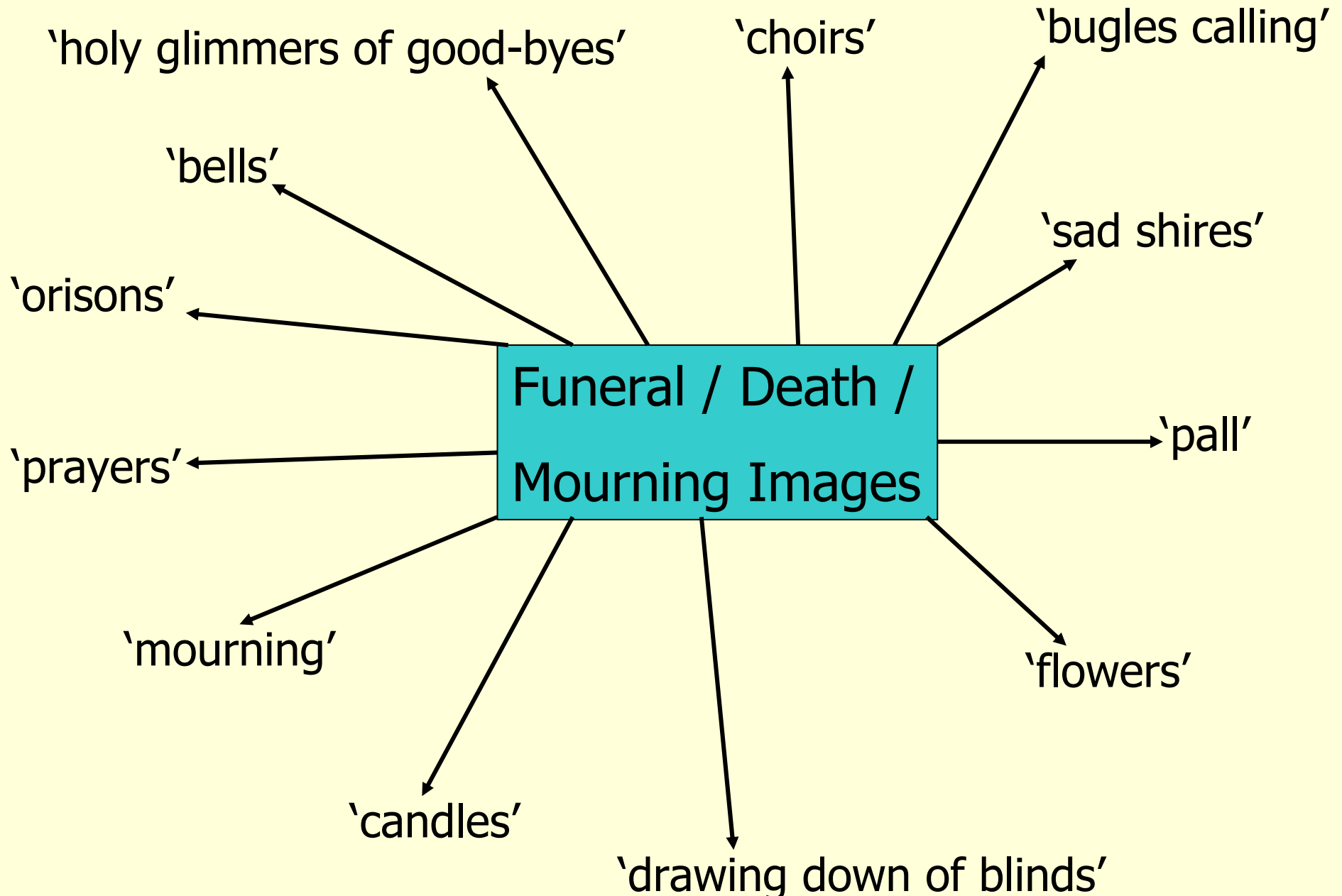
# Anthem for Doomed Youth

What candles may be held to speed them all?  
Not in the hands of boys but in their eyes  
Shall shine the holy glimmers of good-byes.  
The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;  
Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,  
And each slow dusk a drawing-down of  
blinds.

**The poem contains many images related to funerals, death and mourning.**

**Complete the bubble map by adding all of the funeral images that you can find.**







**P** **Point** **Answers the question**

**E** **Example** **Usually a quotation**

**Ee** **Explain the effect** **Why has the author chosen to use those words? What is the effect on the audience?**

# How does Owen use death imagery in his poem?

P

**Wilfred Owen uses many images of death, funerals and mourning in the poem 'Anthem for Doomed Youth'.**

E

**Choose 2 examples from the bubble map**

Ee

**Comment on the effect of your choice of examples. Why did Owen choose to use these images? What do they make the reader think of?**

# Rhetorical Questions

Rhetorical questions are questions that do not require an answer. They are written to make the reader think about the topic being addressed.

How does Owen use rhetorical questions in 'Anthem for Doomed Youth'?

P

Owen uses rhetorical questions at the start of each of the two stanzas of the poem 'Anthem for Doomed Youth'.

E

He wrote: 'What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?' and 'What candles may be held to speed them all?'

Ee

Your turn! Why are these two questions effective? What do they make the reader think about / evaluate? What do they tell the reader about the poet's personal point of view?