**Ozymandias**

* Ozymandias is another name for the Egyptian pharaoh **Rameses II**
* He reined for **67 years** and built a vast number of monuments
* There is a 17-metre statue of Rameses II outside a temple he built in **Thebes**, but only fragments remain.

**London**

* The **French Revolution** began in 1789 and ‘London’ was published in 1792
* The **Haitian Revolution**, where slaves successfully liberated themselves from French colonial rule, took place in 1791
* Blake initially associated the French Revolution with progress towards greater **equality**
* However, he was later disturbed by the **violence** that came with it
* England was in the middle of the **Industrial Revolution** and cities were expanding rapidly, leading to pollution and over-crowding

***Extract from* The Prelude**

* *The Prelude* is a long (i.e. book-length) **autobiographical** poem and the ‘boat stealing’ excerpt is only a very small part of it
* Wordsworth was **influenced** by the ‘romantic’ movement
* This meant that he believed in – amongst other things – the power of **imagination** and the **natural world**
* Linked to this is the idea of the ‘**sublime**’
* The ‘sublime’ describes the intense, spiritual **mixture** of admiration and fear people experience when they see dramatic landscapes

**My Last Duchess**

* **Ferrara** is in Northern Italy
* The ‘nine-hundred-years-old name’ that the Duke possesses conveys his status as a member of the Italian **aristocracy**.
* Marriages between members of the aristocracy during the 1500s were carefully **arranged**
* They were based upon **social**, **political** and **financial** gain
* The poem is a **dramatic monologue**, meaning that we only hear the Duke’s voice and, as such, receive a singular perspective.

**Charge of the Light Brigade**

* The **Crimean War** was fought between 1853 - 1856
* Britain (and other countries) fought against the Russian Empire
* In **1854**, an order given to the British army’s cavalry division – known as the Light Brigade – was misunderstood
* Over **600 cavalrymen** charged down a narrow valley straight into the fire of Russian cannons

**Exposure**

* Owen fought on the **Somme** in 1916
* He was **injured** by a shell in 1917 and was hospitalised
* He **returned** to the frontline in 1918 and was killed one week before the Armistice
* Owen’s poetry was markedly **different** from the patriotic verse which had previously been written about the war

**Storm on the Island**

* The poem is perhaps an **allegory** for the on-going political troubles in Northern Ireland that began in the 1960s
* Heaney explored how the people of Northern Ireland are **constantly at threat** from forces that are beyond their control
* ‘The Troubles’ spanned thirty years and a ceasefire was called in 1998 when the Good Friday Agreement was signed

**Bayonet Charge**

* World War I was fought between **1914 - 1918**
* Hughes **did not** fight in World War I, but his father did serve
* A **bayonet** is a blade attached to a rifle to enable soldiers to engage in close combat

**Remains**

* **PTSD** stands for post-traumatic stress disorder and is a condition characterised by nightmares and flashbacks
* Suffers may experience **intense** feelings of isolation and guilt
* The location of the conflict is not revealed, but it is possibly **Iraq** during the Gulf War

**Poppies**

* Poppies are a universal **symbol of remembrance**
* When World War I ended, **poppies** were one of the few plants to grow on the former battlefields of Northern France and Belgium
* **Remembrance Day** is on the 11th November each year and people gather to honour those who have lost their lives in war

**War Photographer**

* Photographs were traditionally ‘exposed’ in ‘**dark rooms**’ that were lit with a red light
* **Don McCullin** is a famous British photographer
* The reference to **Belfast** (in Northern Ireland) alludes to the conflict in during the late 20th century known as ‘The Troubles’
* The reference to **Beirut** (in Lebanon) alludes to the Siege of Beirut that took place in the summer of 1982
* The reference to **Phnom Penh** (in Cambodia) alludes to the brutal four-year rule of the Khmer Rouge during the 1970s

**Tissue**

* The **Quran** (‘Koran’ in the poem) is the central religious text of Islam
* **Sepia** is the brownish colour of old photographs
* The poem is **abstract** in nature, which means that it focuses on distinctive images and invites us to interpret them in different ways

**The Émigrée**

* An émigrée is someone who has been forced to **leave their home country**, usually to flee persecution or human rights violations
* Amnesty International estimate that there are about **26 million** refugees globally

**Checking Out Me History**

* **Toussaint L’Ouverture** was the leader of the Haitian revolution, which took place between 1791 - 1804
* Although he died in 1803, Haiti’s **independence** was declared in 1804
* **Nanny of the Maroons** (i.e. former slaves) was leader of the Jamaican resistance against the British Empire between 1720 - 1739
* She was a highly capable **military strategist** and oversaw a sustained and decisive campaign of guerrilla warfare
* **Shaka** was a fearsome warrior who became leader of the Zulus in 1816
* **Mary Seacole** was a Jamaican nurse in the Crimean War and she is often **overlooked** in favour of Florence Nightingale

**Kamikaze**

* **Kamikaze** translates as ‘divine wind’
* Kamikaze pilots deliberately flew their planes into enemy targets, usually **American warships**, in the Pacific Ocean
* The kamikaze attacks started in 1944 and it is estimated that roughly **3800 pilots died**