

VOICES FROM WWI

POETRY ANALYSIS



VOICES FROM WWI

- ❖ 21 year old Lieutenant
- ❖ To his mother: "I have not been to the front, I've been in front of it."



VOICES FROM WWI



- ❖ Regeneration at Craiglockhart Hospital
- ❖ — hero worship
- ❖ "You have fixed my life — however short. You did not light me: I was always a mad comet; but you have fixed me. I spun around you like a satellite for a month, but I shall wing out soon, a dark star in the orbit where you will blaze."

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.

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 goodbyes.

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

Literary Devices:

- ❖ “Die as cattle” - mercilessly slaughtered
- ❖ Likens their deaths to a funeral, but one where the bells are shots, and the mourning choirs are the army bugles
- ❖ Drawing down of the blinds - traditional sign of mourning, likened to the drawing of a sheet to cover the dead

(repetition of vowel sounds), intended to be drawn out in a long and melancholy way, as melancholy as the subject of war itself

Anthem for Dead Youth

What passing-bells for you who die in battle?
— Only the monstrous anger of the guns!
Only the stuttering rifles' rattled rattle
Can patter out your hasty orisons, human life!
No mockeries now for you, no belated nor false choices;
Nor any good-byeing noise of shells,
And bugles calling for you from your shires,
Suddenizing the Marleylight. 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 holy lights of my goodbyes.
The pallor of girls' brows must be your pall;
Your flowers the tenderness of compassionate minds;
And each slow dusk, a drawing down of blinds
W. Yeats

ANTHEM FOR DOOMED YOUTH

Literary Devices:

- ❖ Words used in a way that is meant to represent the sounds they would make
- ❖ “stuttering rifles,” “rapid rattle,” “patter out,” and “wailing shells”

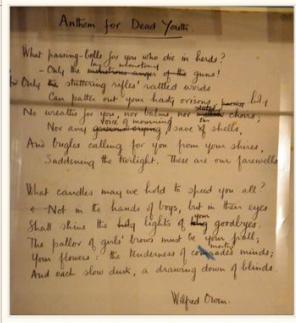
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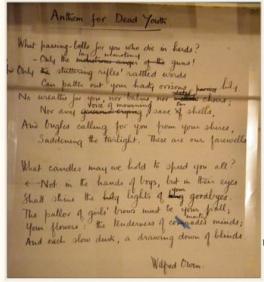
ANTHEM FOR DOOMED YOUTH

- ❖ Conventional function of a sonnet is love
- ❖ Young male population — patriotic love, eagerness to serve
- ❖ Rot in trenches, mown down
- ❖ “no mockeries now fro them; no prayers nor bells”
- ❖ “Anthem” as title =



ANTHEM FOR DOOMED YOUTH

Line 1 =



Lines 2-8 =

of war on the battlefield

Line 1 =

of the war on soldiers and families

Lines 2-6 =