

Anthem for Doomed Youth

BY WILFRED OWEN

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.

Readings

- Students should read the poem so as to discover the general meaning.
- Through this general meaning symbols , images, figure of speech are manipulated so as to find the accurate meaning of the poem.

Key words

- War poets
- Sacrifices vs courage

Themes

- Soldiers courage
- Death vs life
- Courage vs cowardice

Form

- Sonnet

Structure

- Cyclical structure
- Linear structure

Discussion

- Students' responses to the poem.
- Every student should write a critical essay to be discussed in the next lecture.