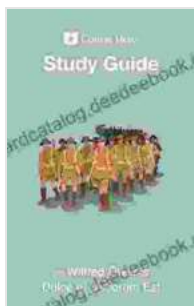


# The Ultimate Study Guide to Wilfred Owen's "Dulce et Decorum Est"

Wilfred Owen's "Dulce et Decorum Est" is one of the most powerful and moving poems written about the horrors of World War I. The poem's vivid imagery and unforgettable language capture the physical and emotional devastation of war, and its message of anti-war sentiment is still relevant today.

This study guide will provide you with everything you need to know to understand and appreciate "Dulce et Decorum Est." We'll discuss the poem's context, structure, language, and themes. We'll also provide analysis of some of the poem's most important passages and explore its literary significance.

Wilfred Owen was born in England in 1893. He was a sensitive and intelligent young man who was deeply affected by the outbreak of World War I in 1914. Owen enlisted in the British Army in 1915 and was sent to fight on the Western Front. He was killed in action in 1918, just one week before the end of the war.



## Study Guide for Wilfred Owen's Dulce et Decorum Est

by Course Hero

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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"Dulce et Decorum Est" was written in 1917, while Owen was serving on the Western Front. The poem is based on Owen's own experiences in the war, and it reflects his deep disgust for the senseless violence and suffering that he witnessed.

"Dulce et Decorum Est" is a sonnet, which is a type of poem that consists of 14 lines. The poem is divided into two stanzas, each of which contains eight lines. The first stanza describes the horrors of war, while the second stanza expresses the poet's anti-war message.

The poem's rhyme scheme is ABBA ABBA CDCDCD. The use of a regular rhyme scheme helps to create a sense of unity and coherence, and it also makes the poem more memorable.

Owen uses vivid and powerful language to describe the horrors of war. He employs a variety of literary devices, including imagery, symbolism, and figurative language.

One of the most striking images in the poem is the description of the soldiers as "old beggars under sacks." This image conveys the physical and emotional exhaustion of the soldiers, and it also suggests that they are victims of a cruel and senseless war.

Owen also uses symbolism to convey his message of anti-war sentiment. The flowers that the soldiers see in their dreams represent hope and

beauty, but they are also a reminder of the innocence that has been lost in the war.

The main themes of "Dulce et Decorum Est" are the horrors of war and the futility of war. Owen shows us the physical and emotional devastation that war causes, and he argues that war is a senseless and wasteful enterprise.

The poem's title, "Dulce et Decorum Est," is a Latin phrase that means "It is sweet and fitting to die for your country." This phrase is often used to glorify war and to encourage young men to enlist in the military. However, Owen uses the phrase ironically to show that war is anything but sweet or fitting.

Here is an analysis of some of the most important passages in "Dulce et Decorum Est":

- **Line 1:** "Bent double, like old beggars under sacks, Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge,"

This line describes the physical exhaustion of the soldiers. They are hunched over and coughing, and they are wading through mud. The image of the soldiers as "old beggars" suggests that they are victims of a cruel and senseless war.

- **Line 5:** "If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs,"

This line describes the horrific injuries that the soldiers suffer. The speaker hears the blood gurgling from the lungs of a dying soldier, and he is horrified by the sight.

- **Line 9:** "Gas! Gas! Quick, boys!—An ecstasy of fumbling, Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time,"

This line describes the soldiers' reaction to a gas attack. They are frantically trying to put on their gas masks, but they are too late. The gas has already reached them, and they are starting to choke.

- **Line 13:** "In all my dreams, before my helpless sight, He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning,"

This line describes the speaker's recurring nightmare of the dying soldier. The speaker sees the soldier's face as he gurgles and chokes, and he is unable to help him.

- **Line 14:** "If in some smothering dreams you too could pace Behind the wagon that we flung him in, And watch the white eyes writhing in his face, His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin,"

This line is a powerful indictment of war. The speaker asks the reader to imagine what it would be like to see the dying soldier's face. He describes the soldier's eyes as "white eyes writhing in his face," and he compares the soldier's face to that of "a devil's sick of sin." This image is a reminder of the horrors of war and of the senseless suffering that it causes.

"Dulce et Decorum Est" is one of the most important and influential poems of the 20th century. The poem's vivid imagery and unforgettable language capture the physical and emotional devastation of war, and its message of anti-war sentiment is still relevant today.

The poem has been praised by critics for its honesty, its realism, and its power. It is considered to be one of the finest examples of war poetry ever written.

"Dulce et Decorum Est" has been studied and taught in schools and universities for decades. It is a powerful reminder of the horrors of war, and it is a call for peace.

"Dulce et Decorum Est" is a powerful and moving poem that captures the physical and emotional devastation of war. Owen's vivid imagery and unforgettable language make the poem a powerful indictment of war, and his message of anti-war sentiment is still relevant today.

This study guide has provided you with everything you need to know to understand and appreciate "Dulce et Decorum Est." We've discussed the poem's context, structure, language, and themes. We've also provided analysis of some of the poem's most important passages and explored its literary significance.

We hope that this study guide has been helpful and informative. We encourage you to read "Dulce et Decorum Est" and to reflect on its powerful message.



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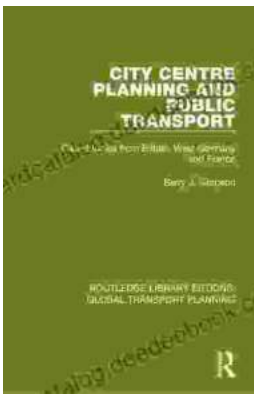
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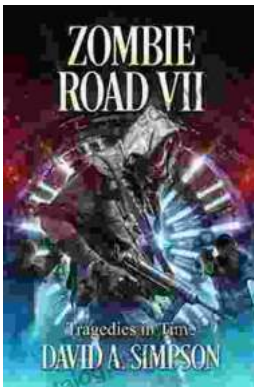
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