

LI: To understand the content, context and devices used in *Poppies* by Jane Weir.

- 1. Read the poem through once on page 26 in the booklet and pay attention to the annotations next to it as you read.** What are your first impressions of the poem? What mood is set? What do you think the poem might be about?
- 2. Read over the information on page 27 on context, themes and structure.** Now, create a mind- map or bullet-point list reducing this information into key points.
- 3. Next, read the poem through again.** Highlight/ underline any **language devices** you see being used in one colour. Next to these highlighted points, **annotate the effect** of these techniques. Refer to terminology in the glossary.
- 4. Now, read the poem again.** Using a different colour highlighter/ pen, identify any **structural devices** used and, just like with language, **annotate the effect** of the structure. Refer to terminology in the glossary.
- 5. What links to context can be seen within the poem?** Highlight and annotate.
- 6. What links to themes can be seen within the poem?** Highlight and annotate.
- 7. Now, listen to the GCSEPods on *Poppies*-** there are several short pods so make sure you listen to them all. As you listen, add key information to your annotations or create a mind-map/ bullet- point list of key information as you listen.

8. Finally, answer all of the following questions based on the poem:

Poppies

1. How is the colour red used in the first stanza?
2. What's this poem's viewpoint?
3. Look at line 10 again. How is contrast used?
4. Think of two ways symbolism is used in this poem. Explain!
5. What are two settings in the poem? What's the significance?
6. Look again at line 31. Why do you think Weir used the plural here?
7. Look again at lines 20-21. What's the simile here? What might it mean?
8. Why do you think the title might have been chosen? Come up with at least three reasons!
9. Look at line 29. Why is it significant she's not wearing a coat or scarf or gloves?
10. Read line 30 again. What might the hill be a metaphor for?
11. What is the poet's message to the reader within this poem? How do we know?

Challenge tasks:

1. How has Weir presented the effects of war in *Poppies*? Use WETTER plus links to context to form your response.
2. How has Weir presented the theme Conflict within *Poppies*? Use WETTER plus links to context to form your response.
3. Which other poems that you have seen so far could you link *Poppies* to and why? Compare writers' intentions in both poems.