

## Dulce et Decorum Est (pro patria mori):



Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,  
Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge,  
Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs,  
And towards our distant rest began to trudge.  
Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots,  
But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame, all blind;  
Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots  
Of gas-shells dropping softly behind.

Gas! Gas! Quick, boys! An ecstasy of fumbling,  
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time,  
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling  
And floundering like a man in fire or lime.  
Dim through the misty panes and thick green light,  
As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.  
In all my dreams, before my helpless sight,  
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.

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;  
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood  
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs,  
Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud  
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues,  
My friend, you would not tell with such high zest  
To children ardent for some desperate glory,  
The old Lie: *Dulce et decorum est*  
*Pro patria mori.*

By Wilfred Owen, Manchester Regiment 1917.

## Dulce et Decorum est Pro Patria Mori

*(means 'it is good/ sweet to die for your country' in Latin)*

### **Aims**

The poem describes an event seen by Owen in the Great War. Your job is to test the source and see if it can be trusted or not. It isn't good History just to say - "Owen was there so he would know". We have to test to get to the truth.

**Which event does Owen describe?**

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**Select a phrase from the poem that describes the mud of the trenches**

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**Select a phrase from the poem that describes being tired**

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Select a phrase/s that describes someone panicking

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Select a phrase from the poem that shows Owen's nightmares

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Select a phrase/s from the poem that describes the effects of the gas on the victim

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Select a phrase/s from the poem that describes the effects of the gas on the victim

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Does you think that the last line 'Dulce et Decorum est Pro Patria Mori' (it is good to die for your country) is the real message of the poem? Explain your answer.

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