Assessment Exemplar – D

*Owen’s poetry acts as a collective voice for the soldiers on the battle front.*

Discuss this statement in relation to ‘The Next War’ and at least one other of your choosing.

Owen's voice acts as a collective voice in his poetry. The British Poet wrote visually and creatively during WW1 as an anti-war expression. He uses rhetorical questions, adjectives, similes and metaphors to communicate his voice in his poems. These poems are his expirinces.

"Knock-kneed like beggars" simile shows how the soldiers were tired. The soldiers were exhausted from fighting therefore slouching over with their bodies. This shows old-ness and how their youth has disappeared, no longer having the epitome of masculinity. Owen is voicing this through the poem Dulche. The next war poem explains that there will be another war and these soldiers will continue to be tired. “We laughed at the men who would come later on” shows how the personal pronoun ‘we’ shows how the group of soldiers found war. Owen has used death and a main character and used personification with the grim reaper to show how the soldiers feel towards death. Therefore, Owen uses a collective voice in his poetry through the conditions.

In his poems, a reoccurring theme of voices comes through. The next war, has personal pronouns throughout. The verbs ‘sat’ and ‘eaten’ extends this idea further by portraying the reactions and significance of the soldiers through Owen’s collective voice. “Out there, we’ve walked quite friendly up to Death, -, Sat down and eaten with him, cool and bland. We’ve sniffed the green thick odour of his breath”. This is also similar in dulce est decorum et. The visual imagery of gas is shown. ‘As under a green sea, I saw him drowning’. These prime examples show the regular occurrence of green gas and how Owen wanted to voice his theme of the horrible events that occurred at war. Owen’s poetry explores the regular theme that for the soldiers and himself that war allowed them to constantly want to accept that death was an easy way out. The soldiers are constantly close to death; any second could be their last.

In ‘Dulce Et Decorum Est” Owen use the harsh reality at war to express the soldiers voice.

Owen knows that war is all a lie and this is shown in two of his poems clearly. Properganda tricks men to go to war. Owen’s poetry heavily acts as a collective voice and examines the political and religious lies of war. Owen writes a whole poem to convince his readers that it is not sweet and fitting to die for one’s country. The capital ‘L’ shows that this lie is morally wrong. ‘If you could hear’ and ‘you would not tell with zest so high’ show the contrast between the personal pronouns and second person. It separates the government and the soldiers. More so, Owen is referring to Jessie Pope to tell everyone that her pro-war poems are incorrect. The governments weren’t even acknowledging the men.

Owen’s poetry works as a collective voice to show the audience that although soldiers are all different, they are in fact all the same and experiencing the same hardships of war.