**How Could We Group the Poems?**

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| Poems | Possible Links |
| * **London** * **Exposure** * **(Ozymandias)** | These poems describe a process of decay, debasement or deterioration in people or places that should have been strong. They also reflect the negative impact of time and / or conflict over time.  *Ozymandias* is also an obvious choice for this group. But, as it is the only poem that links in an obvious way with *My Last Duchess*, I’ve not included it here. |
| * **The Charge of the Light Brigade** * **Bayonet Charge** * **Remains** * **(Exposure)** | These poems describe violent conflict directly, and the impact it has on a man or a group of men. *Exposure* could also be included in this group |
| * **The Prelude** * **Storm on the Island** | These poems show conflict between Man and Nature, through examining the force of the natural world, and Man’s response to it. |
| * **Poppies** * **War Photographer** * **Kamikaze** * **(Remains)** | These poems examine the relationship between conflict and memory, whether from the perspective of those involved in conflict, or those who have witnessed conflict or its effects.  *Remains* could also be a part of this group. |
| * **Checking Out Me History** * **The Emigree** * **(Kamikaze)** | These poems explore the feelings of people moving from one place or culture to another, and the sense of conflict between past and present that arises from this.  With *Kamikaze,* they also explore changing identity in the face of conflict. |
| * **Ozymandias** * **My Last Duchess** | These poems present a protagonist or despotic figure from the past, who is obsessive about power |
| * **Tissue** * **(Exposure)** * **(London)** | This poem explores the fragility of human life, and the transient nature of things. *Exposure* could also be included in this group. So, perhaps, could London. |

The problem poem is *My Last Duchess,* which has fewer obvious links to the other poems. It does, however, have a **strong narrative voice** (which is not the poet’s) , which could link it to poems like *Remains, The Emigree* and  *Poppies.* Duffy chooses to write *War Photographer* in the third person, even though it seems very personal.

Alternatively, *London, Exposure* and *Checking Out Me History* have strong narrative voices that are more personal and, arguably, are the poets’ own.

*Tissue* is the most abstract poem in the collection, and difficult to match to other poems. In terms of relating conflict to more abstract forms and ideas, though, it could be linked to *Poppies*, which is another poem that is more open to interpretation than most.

Poems, then, could be taught in these groups. The most challenging poem, *Tissues,* could be looked at towards the end of the SoW, where pupils could be invited to forge their own links with other poems, thus creating some original ways to compare.

**CJE**

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