**Read ‘The Basics’ about *Exposure,* then re-read the poem before answering the following questions:**

1. **For each of the eight stanzas of the poem, write a one-sentence summary of what is happening in that stanza. For example, for stanza 1, you could write: ‘The soldiers wait very quietly through a freezing cold night while nothing happens…’**
2. **In the first stanza, find references to a) the temperature and b) noise. Copy them down. How do they add to the atmosphere at the start of the poem?**
3. **Why does Owen write that the distant rumble of guns is like a ‘dull rumour of some other war’ in the second stanza? How does this relate the final line of the stanza, that is also repeated elsewhere?**
4. **In stanza three, list references to the weather conditions. Where else is the weather referred to in the poem?**
5. **How do you explain the final lines of the fifth stanza? What do you think is happening to the men here? (Clue: consider the words, ‘dreams’, dazed’, ‘dozed’ and ‘dying’.)**
6. **What kind of images of home are presented in the sixth stanza? Wy do you think Owen describes the doors as being ‘closed’ to the soldiers’ ghosts at home?**
7. **Many people find stanza 7 very difficult to make sense of. In pairs, go through it and discuss what you think it means. You could compare your ideas with other pairs, or perhaps discuss it as a whole class!**
8. **How does Owen end the poem? Why do you think he chooses to end it in this way?**

* **Extension: the poem is all about the suffering of the soildiers. Make a list of the ways in which they suffer, using two headings: ‘physically’ and ‘mentally’. Find evidence in the form of quotations from the poem to back up the points on your list.**



*poem by poem* QUESTIONS

Wilfred Owen