

# POWER AND CONFLICT POETRY

## A. Poetic Form

Poetic Form	Definition	Why?
1. Sonnet	14 lines of iambic pentameter with a rhyme scheme.	tightly constrained form makes poet consider ideas carefully.
2. Epic	long narrative poem about a hero.	alludes to ancient Greece/Rome; suggests topic of great importance.
3. Rhyming quatrain	four lines, two of which rhyme.	simple, nursery-rhyme style.
4. Dramatic monologue	character speaking like an actor.	realistic.
5. Rhyming couplet	two lines ending with words that rhyme.	Simple, complete thought suggested.
6. Enjambment	overflowing lines without punctuation to end them.	suggests overflowing thoughts or feelings.
7. Caesura	a pause in a line of poetry, using punctuation.	Suggests a pause in thought or throws emphasis to a line or word.
8. Refrain	Repeated line through a line of poetry.	memorable; strong rhythm; strong message.

## B. Poems and poets

Poet	Poem	Date	Power/conflict
William Blake	London	1794	inequality rich/poor, conflict nature/urban; psychological power.
William Wordsworth	The Prelude: Stealing the Boat	1798	internal conflict; power of nature; emotional power.
Percy Bysshe Shelley	Ozymandias	1818	time: conflict past and present; tyranny; nature vs. civilisation.
Robert Browning	My Last Duchess	1842	abuse of power; psychological power; conflict expectations; patriarchal/social power.
Alfred Lord Tennyson	Charge of the Light Brigade	1854	social hierarchy; violent conflict; moral conflict.
Wilfred Owen	Exposure	1917	brutal reality of war; futility of war; tragic effects of conflict; powerlessness of nature.
Seamus Heaney	Storm on the Island	1966	power of nature; conflict eternal nature and transient man; power of nature.
Ted Hughes	Bayonet Charge	1957	tragic effect of war; moral justification of war; soldier transformed to weapon of war; terror.
Carol Ann Duffy	War Photographer	1985	tragic effect of conflict; horror of war; indifference to conflict.
Carol Rumens	The émigrée	1993	threatening tone; power of place over a person.
John Agard	Checking Out Me History	1996	internal conflict; abuse of power.
Imtiaz Dharker	Tissue	2006	internal conflict.
Simon Armitage	Remains	2007	internal conflict; fall from power; abuse of power; effect of conflict.
Jane Weir	Poppies	2009	tragic effect of conflict; conflicting family relationships and feelings.
Beatrice Garland	Kamikaze	2013	internal conflict; past memories; fall from power.