

## Audio file

[awriterswar2019pod01dulceetdecorumestmaster181219.mp3](#)

## Transcript

00:00:01 Speaker 1

Welcome to a writers war, a National Lottery Heritage fund, First World War Centenary project produced by Chrome Radio for the University of Oxford, faculty of Mediaeval and Modern Languages. In partnership with year 10 students from Oxford Spires Academy. The university organised a series of workshops.

00:00:22 Speaker 1

For the students looking at responses of British, French and German writers to the First World War.

00:00:28 Speaker 1

In the first.

00:00:29 Speaker 1

Four podcasts we hear from the students. We begin with Dulce ET decorum estate.

00:00:44 Speaker 2

I'm William when I go to Oxford Spires Academy, we've had some people come in and do some workshops with us about war poetry in World War One, but it is quite interesting. The different approaches from the different parts and how they responded, so will the English course of it.

00:01:00 Speaker 2

As a sort of game and the French photo of it is a bit more patriotic, fighting for your country, it would affect the drummer bit differently as the fighting was going on in France and their land was being destroyed.

00:01:13 Speaker 2

I think Wilfred aren't parents made a big impact because it was quite a realistic view of what war would be.

00:01:20 Speaker 2

His permed or tragic on rest isn't sweetened able to die for your country but what he's saying is that's a lie and that it's actually really gruesome and a really horrible thing to go to war.

00:01:32 Speaker 2

One other thing we had to do was look at Dulce decorum. Massively different onomatopoeias like bang Crash crack and try and write our own versions be using onomatopoeia and linking it toward.

00:01:45 Speaker 2

What I wrote was wanting to roll for donors like cracking bones on the blood curdling floor for croaking of a man.

00:01:51 Speaker 2

Gargling from gas drowning in the sea of yellow fires are measuring up, burning their chance of survival. And then I thought about the good bits of war. The good bits came from GAIL Apolinar because he was putting a positive.

00:02:04 Speaker 3

Bet on it.

00:02:05 Speaker 2

Maybe it's a way of dealing with the fact that the war was.

00:02:08 Speaker 2

Going on I.

00:02:09 Speaker 2

Wrote the lights fluttering says laying and popping in the sky of green and yellow. The flickering of light when I've done that it goes off.

00:02:35 Speaker 5

Troublesome tanks taking over towns. Burning Bones break innocent bones, sad souls. So performing soldiers via smiles cover football fields.

00:02:45 Speaker 5

My name is.

00:02:46 Speaker 5

Maria, my family originally come from Bangladesh.

00:02:50 Speaker 5

We've building workshops on war and French poems. So what are the list? Is the Worford album I found more interesting.

00:02:59 Speaker 5

How he described war compared to one of the French poems, the war for Daniel Powell talked about how bad forwards and how soldiers went through a lot.

00:03:10 Speaker 5

Is the French poems about love and how great the war was?

00:03:15 Speaker 5

I enjoyed looking at the stuff in the archive because we got to find out ways really like for the soldiers and the people who they loved back home.

00:03:25 Speaker 5

One of the letters was old soldier in the trenches, and you could tell because his handwriting wasn't so great and was written in pencil, whereas the letter from his father is in Birmingham writing with pen.

00:03:37 Speaker 5

We saw some scrapbooks with pictures of other soldiers and what they did. We could learn more about the war, what happened close up, and the reality for people there.

00:03:51 Speaker 5

I'd say Scotland, because most countries were included in the war because of the British Empire.

00:04:13 Speaker 6

I'm Malachi Headley. I'm a year 10 people at Oxford Spires Academy. My mother is from Saint Vincent and my dad is from Barbados.

00:04:23 Speaker 6

Being at Oxford, Spires has inspired me to write poetry and music, especially reading World War One poets.

00:04:33 Speaker 6

Reading British poems was quite influential upon me because for example, irwins use of onomatopoeia in his poems bring about emotion and empathy in the reader. Reading the French poems was a little harder because my first language.

00:04:53 Speaker 6

But still, you're drawn into these poems and they illustrate an image about what they perceive of World War One.

00:05:02 Speaker 6

French poets generally gave quite a sugarcoated description, giving metaphors, giving similes not quite, describing the two aspects, some French.

00:05:14 Speaker 6

Poets described war as quite a beautiful thing that soldiers young soldiers should be excited for. Whereas British soldiers such as Owen and Sassoon.

00:05:25 Speaker 6

Have a more ugly, twisted approach giving day-to-day descriptions of World War One and its true features.

00:05:34 Speaker 6

Studying French has been a great experience for me. I studied French culture throughout year 7-8 and nine and then at the end of year nine I went on a trip to France in June, July time and the weather was sunny and I got to experience the true culture of Paris. It was very nice.

00:05:54 Speaker 6

Here the languages and communicate with, for example, the shopkeepers.

00:05:58 Speaker 6

I wrote this poem on influence from poems written by Wilfred Owen and his friends and comrades in World War One.

00:06:09 Speaker 6

I also looked at French responses to World War One, which contrasted quite drastically to those of the British grateful.

00:06:19 Speaker 6

Not to hear the icy silence after a successful attack, not to hear the flight of fiendish fortified weapons following your every footstep or to gasp breathless at a limb on floor, not knowing who's mine or yours.

00:06:34 Speaker 6

But to play music to be with friends to be your family, to be with nature, we must be grateful because you can never be with nature at war. For war is not natural.

00:07:07 Speaker 7

I'm iPhone and I and then Oxford Spies Academy which is in East Oxford. I study French. We've been looking at different poems and how people represent war in poetry.

00:07:19 Speaker 7

It's been interested in the fact that there's so many different.

00:07:22 Speaker 7

Opinions there are some ones about how wars.

00:07:26 Speaker 7

Like a game and how it can also be seen in a positive way. How the explosions can be pretty, but also we were looking at some Wilfred Owen ones I'm reading from Wilfred Owen's poem Dull stepped to calmest and this is my favourite bit of the poem.

00:07:41 Speaker 7

Bent double like old beggars under sacks.

00:07:44 Speaker 7

Heavy be sounds make it like trudging also old beggars under sacks D here arises. The people were is not something to be glorified as we've seen in many other poems.

00:07:55 Speaker 7

It makes you think more about how people perceive war and I'm definitely looking into ways other people, not just women vocal one. That other was seized.

00:08:03 Speaker 7

Stuff we looked at. Some archives of people who had died in the war. He went to Moreland College. You could see siblings that had pictures of them and it shows the reality of normal people.

00:08:15 Speaker 7

Normal lives going to war. There's many different ways people perceive war, but only if you're there. You'll really know what it's like.

00:08:31 Speaker 3

I'm somewhere under the Axis Powers Academy. We've been doing a project from poet of the First World War, so German, French and English in particular.

00:08:41 Speaker 3

I have looked at the German poet and Startler and the English poet Wilfred L and I remember the most the contrasts of the poems, how some poems describe rule?

00:08:51 Speaker 3

To be like a haven really good, well, some describe to break how and really bad.

00:08:57 Speaker 3

These workshops gave me an insight of what the rule was like.

00:09:01 Speaker 3

They take history, so I have a good understanding of the First World War in general by looking at poetry.

00:09:08 Speaker 3

It gives you more of an understanding of one man's perspective of it. My family is originally from Pakistan.

00:09:14 Speaker 3

They survived the partition of India and Pakistan. My grandad. He was only about six or seven when the.

00:09:20 Speaker 3

Partition happened regarding issues before they survived, and we're here today.

00:09:27 Speaker 3

This is what I wrote is about today, that her rule could be possible, but how we're so lucky that it hasn't actually happened yet.

00:09:36 Speaker 3

We're so lucky we wake up to the sound of birds tweeting not bombs dropping. We can leave our house without the fear of being killed.

00:09:44 Speaker 3

We have people out front protecting us. We're so lucky but we have weapons that can destroy our earth at once. Ballistic bonds breaking the brands of children in poorer countries, country on the verge of war.

00:09:55 Speaker 3

Destroying everything, I guess we're not so lucky after all.

00:10:16 Speaker 1

You have been listening to a writers wall. I do hope you'll join us for the next podcast in the series.