

Audio file

[awriterswar2019pod03allquietmaster181219.mp3](#)

Transcript

00:00:01 Speaker 2

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.

00:00:21 Speaker 2

Of workshops for the students looking at responses of British, French and German writers to the First World War. This is the third of four podcasts in which we hear from the students.

00:00:35 Speaker 2

All quiet on the Western Front.

00:00:50 Speaker 3

I'm Phoenix Dano and we're at Oxford Spires Academy. We've been doing a workshop, looking at poems written during World War One.

00:00:58 Speaker 3

Some of them were written by English poets, some by German, and I didn't look at the French ones, but they were there too.

00:01:05 Speaker 3

I think it's interesting to hear poems from the different countries there. The side of the story you don't really hear because in England you tend to hear the English problems and not the German poems.

00:01:15 Speaker 3

There wasn't a huge difference between them for both English and German. We looked at two separate poems and bits of writing, and in both the different languages there was a contrast between the two.

00:01:25 Speaker 3

Poems, one of which was a lot more glorious view of it. It made it seem like it was really good and then the other one was written by someone who experienced it and didn't find it was quite as good. So both of them were actually quite similar. In that way they both had those contrasts.

00:01:41 Speaker 3

I found that German found very difficult to translate because a lot of it is language you don't hear spoken language and written language tend to be very different. So what we learn in German lessons and what we were reading was very different.

00:01:54 Speaker 3

We wrote poems.

00:01:56 Speaker 3

Based on more Modern Warfare stuff that would happen now, mine was quite simple.

00:02:03 Speaker 3

If we were to war, we'd see that it is really not worth the trouble. Drones don't sound so good to me, nor being buried under rubble fires that rubbish the land and blistering bio weapons. To do this to learn by hand, there must be something wrong with us.

00:02:19 Speaker 3

I think something to do with the spread awareness of the different sides of the war and how people who were in universities and colleges at the time would have had to go off and fight and probably would have never come back.

00:02:43 Speaker 4

I'm Molly Almaden, we're Oxford Spires Academy. We've been analysing poetry rule poets specifically and in different languages as well.

00:02:51 Speaker 4

Why did German, other people did French? We were looking at the First World War and different representations of the First World War. People who hadn't been to war. People who had been to war.

00:03:02 Speaker 4

And were there expectations and we are.

00:03:04 Speaker 4

That's what I rather liked Wilfredo because of his use of onomatopoeia his political sounds the way he represents war, using similes, metaphors, and in German.

00:03:15 Speaker 4

We were looking at a passage from all quiet on the Western Front by remark about going toward and seeing the horrific side of war and about people.

00:03:24 Speaker 4

We're forcing people to go in the pressure. If you think oh you were.

00:03:27 Speaker 4

Called a coward. I think our perception of war will change because we've looked at poets who have experienced war and it will probably change a lot of people opinions about war and what it was like and what happened.

00:03:39 Speaker 4

My parents are from Germany, Ireland and Pakistan. Obviously Germany was associated with the First World War and the Second World War and then Pakistan.

00:03:50 Speaker 4

You have a lot of conflicts about the border and the separation from India and Pakistan. My grandpa had to flee the country just after the partition and a lot of my family.

00:03:59 Speaker 4

Also left that part of the country just before the partition. Do you have to escape it? Unfortunately, not many people were as lucky.

00:04:07 Speaker 4

I know that my great grandmother had to flee Germany with her husband because she was a Jewish German and come to England as an immigrant.

00:04:14 Speaker 4

She was also pregnant at the time. She had to leave her sisters and her family because they didn't believe that the world was going to happen, but she knew that there could be a war and she wanted to escape it. She was a dentist in Germany and she wasn't allowed to do what.

00:04:26 Speaker 4

She loved and neither was her husband because they were both Jewish.

00:04:29 Speaker 4

So it is very emotional to look at the different parts and see what my family could have experienced. And I know that some of my family did die in the war and I don't think there are many letters back from them.

00:04:40 Speaker 4

I know that people did fight in this XML board as well as the First World War from my family and from the Second World War we don't.

00:04:46 Speaker 4

Have much either.

00:04:47 Speaker 4

This is my poem that I wrote.

00:04:49 Speaker 4

After we looked on the matter period of modern war, it talks about the disaster of explosions and how when you're dead, you are with your friends once more. Like when you hang out with your friends at home and you'll find me at peace.

00:05:01 Speaker 4

Destruction from a single sounds silence of an explosion. Stamps from fleeting drums in remembrance of an explosion. Towns painted with the falling blood that drips in quietly friends together once more.

00:05:33 Speaker 4

I'm Sophia, I found the workshops are interesting. You got to learn a bit more about the war, poetry and how people thought more.

00:05:42 Speaker 4

What was most interesting to me about the whole experience was the fact that people who weren't in the world. That's all these nice poems.

00:05:51 Speaker 4

And people who were.

00:05:52 Speaker 4

That the reality of.

00:05:54 Speaker 5

I'm Erica, I found these workshops really interesting. I feel like I know a lot more about the reality of the war through his poems because their first hand experience.

00:06:05 Speaker 5

I think it's really important to talk about what these soldiers went through in the war because it was so horrible, more fraternal wrote about the gas attacks.

00:06:13 Speaker 5

He really described in.

00:06:14 Speaker 5

Detail, and I thought that was really harrowing.

00:06:17 Speaker 4

And it wasn't just happening in England when we looked at the German poem. It was the same with German people who had gone to war, though also saying how?

00:06:27 Speaker 4

The stabbing had been we works poem.

00:06:31 Speaker 4

We've always worked together. 'cause we?

00:06:33 Speaker 4

Thought we could create ideas better.

00:06:36 Speaker 4

The crashing of the corrupted aircraft stealing lives from civilians. The scorched skin from the frightening flames burnt like blackened toast.

00:06:46 Speaker 5

The curled up cat in my cosy home they.

00:06:48 Speaker 5

Aren't made for a meal.

00:06:50 Speaker 4

We haven't finished, it's mostly there.

00:07:12 Speaker 2

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