**AQA Power and Conflict Poetry**

Key Biblical Allusions

***London*, by William Blake**

* **‘And blights with plagues the marriage hearse’** (line 16)

Menacingly evocative of the traditional vows: ‘in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part’.



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***Charge of the Light Brigade*, by Alfred Tennyson**

* **‘Into the valley of Death / Rode the six hundred’** (lines 7-8)

A reference from Psalm 23 that conveys the inevitability of death and the spiritual significance of the sacrifice.



***Charge of the Light Brigade*, by Alfred Tennyson**

* **‘Into the jaws of Death / Into the mouth of Hell’** (lines 24-25)

The entrance to Hell has typically been portrayed as the mouth (or jaws) of a terrifying and monstrous creature.



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***Exposure*, by Wilfred Owen**

* **‘For love of God seems dying’** (line 35)

An expression that indicates Owen’s loss of religious faith and (or) his feeling of spiritual abandonment.



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***Poppies*, by Jane Weir**

* **‘I resisted the impulse / to run my fingers through the gelled / blackthorns of your hair’** (lines 14-16)

An allusion to the crown of thorns that Jesus wore during his crucifixion: an evocative image of sacrifice



***War Photographer*, by Carol Ann Duffy**

* **‘as though this were a church and he / a priest preparing to intone a Mass’** (lines 4-5)

Mass is a Catholic act of worship that serves as a memorial to the redeeming work of Jesus and the sacrifice he made.



* **‘All flesh is grass’** (line 6)

A reference from the Old Testament Book of Isaiah that emphasises the fragile and transient nature of human life.



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***Tissue*, by Imtiaz Dharker**

* **‘the kind you find in well-used books, the back of the Koran’** (lines 5-6)

The Koran (Qur’an) is the holy book of Islam; Muslims attribute the words of the Koran to the Angel Gabriel.

