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| Dulce et Decorum Est |

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| **Vocabulary** | |
| **Subject(s):** | **English, History** |
| **Age group(s):** | **12 to 14, 15 to 16** |
| **Topic:** | **War poetry** |



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**Vocabulary: *Dulce et Decorum Est***

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| Dulce et Decorum Est  (the c in *dulce* is usually pronounced ‘ch’ and the e like ‘ay’ in ‘day’) | The title is in Latin. It is the first part of a famous line from an ode by the Roman poet Horace (who lived 65 BC to 8 BC). It means: It is sweet and honourable. (See below for more information.) |  |
| beggars | A beggar is someone who lives by asking people for money or food. |  |
| knock-kneed | Someone who is knock-kneed has legs which turn inwards at the knees. |  |
| hag | If someone refers to a woman as a hag, they mean that she is ugly, old, and unpleasant. |  |
| curse | If you curse, you use rude or offensive language, usually because you are angry about something. |  |
| sludge | Sludge is thick mud. |  |
| haunting | Haunting sounds, images, or words remain in your thoughts because they are very beautiful or sad. |  |
| flare | In order to see the enemy and their equipment, soldiers sent rockets (flares) into the sky which illuminated the area for a short time. | http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/06/US_Army_52253_Best_Warrior_At_Night.jpg/1024px-US_Army_52253_Best_Warrior_At_Night.jpg |
| trudge | If you trudge somewhere, you walk there slowly and with heavy steps, especially because you are tired or unhappy. |  |
| rest | The moment when people relax, but also used for death |  |
| limp | If a person or animal limps, they walk with difficulty or in an uneven way because one of their legs or feet is hurt. |  |
| blood-shod | Wearing shoes filled with blood |  |
| lame | If someone is lame, they are unable to walk properly because of damage to one or both of their legs. |  |
| blind | Someone who is blind is unable to see because their eyes are damaged. |  |
| deaf | Someone who is deaf is unable to hear anything or is unable to hear very well. |  |
| ecstasy | Intense emotion, usually used in positive contexts such as joy |  |
| fumbling | If you fumble for something or fumble with something, you try and reach for it or hold it in a clumsy way. |  |
| yelling | If you yell, you shout loudly, usually because you are excited, angry, or in pain. |  |
| stumbling | If you stumble, you put your foot down awkwardly while you are walking or running and nearly fall over. |  |
| flound’ring | If you flounder in water or mud, you move in an uncontrolled way, trying not to sink. |  |
| lime | Also called quicklime or calcium oxide: chemical that burns the human body like fire |  |
| dim | Dim light is not bright. |  |
| misty | On a misty day, there is a lot of mist (tiny drops of water) in the air. |  |
| drowning | When someone drowns or is drowned, they die because they have gone or been pushed under water and cannot breathe. HERE: downed in the gas, unable to breathe. |  |
| plunge | If you plunge an object into something, you push it quickly or violently into it. |  |
| guttering | Owen uses the word to describe the sounds the dying soldier makes. He may suggest that he sounds like rain water running down pipes from the roof of a building. |  |
| choking | When you choke or when something chokes you, you cannot breathe properly or get enough air into your lungs. |  |
| smothering | To smother someone means to kill them by covering their face with something so that they cannot breathe. |  |

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| we flung him in | We threw him in |  |
| writhing | If you writhe, your body twists and turns violently backwards and forwards, usually because you are in great pain or discomfort. |  |
| like a devil’s sick of sin | Like that of a devil who has had enough of sin |  |
| jolt | A sudden move, bump |  |
| gargling | If you gargle, you wash your mouth and throat by filling your mouth with a liquid, tipping your head back and using your throat to blow bubbles through the liquid, and finally spitting it out. |  |
| froth-corrupted | HERE: damaged by a mass of small bubbles on the surface of a liquid. |  |
| cud | Usually the partly digested grass animals such as cows bring up again and chew for a long time. |  |
| vile | very unpleasant |  |
| sores | A sore is a painful place on the body where the skin is infected. |  |
| innocent | Not knowing, naïve |  |
| with such high zest | With so much enthusiasm, with so much excitement |  |
| ardent | Enthusiastic, keen |  |
| Dulce et decorum est | pro patria mori | The entire line by Horace is quoted here. It means that to die for your country is the right thing to do. The Latin word *decorum* can be translated as honourable, decent, proper, fitting, in accordance with the custom. The quotation suggests that dying for one’s country is positive. |  |

List all the verbs of movement and act them out.

Which words are used to describe the state the soldiers are in when marching to the camp?