

Autumn 2 Week 1:

Focus: A poem that explores character

Context: World War I

Lesson 1

What is 'reading as a reader'?

It is thinking *while or after reading* about **the effect** a text (i.e. a story, poem, piece of non-fiction) has on a reader due to:

- the **words** or **phrases** that have been used
- the **tone** of the text (i.e. whether it is generally funny, ironic, serious, light-hearted, etc)
- how a text is **presented** (i.e. set out) or **structured** (i.e. built).

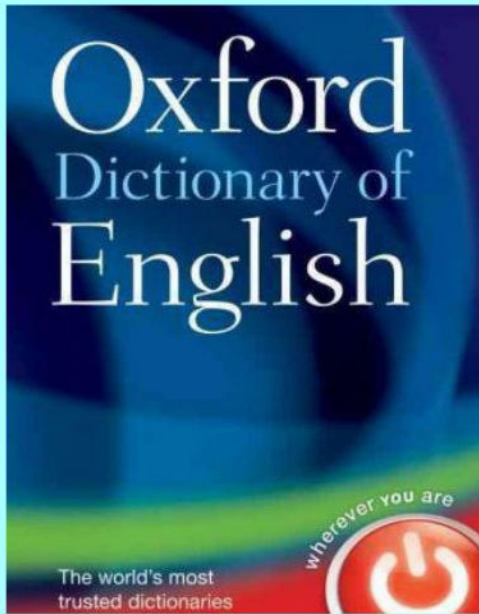


Siegfried Sassoon

- Born in 1886 into a wealthy Jewish family
- Studied at Cambridge University but didn't finish his degree
- Lived the life of a care-free gentleman (i.e. didn't need to earn money to live) until he went to fight in World War I in May 1915
- Earned the name 'Mad Jack' because of his daring exploits in the War and was 'decorated' (i.e. was awarded medals) twice
- Lost his brother, Hano, who was also a soldier in November 1915 and this had a big impact on him
- Was injured in the War so came home to recover but rejoined the fighting later
- Gradually became angry and against the War due to how he felt it was being managed by Army Generals (i.e. the top-ranking army officials)
- Wrote poems about the war while he was a soldier and after he came back from the war
- Died in 1967

Base Details by Siegfried Sassoon

If I were fierce, and bald, and short of breath,
I'd live with scarlet majors at the Base.
And speed glum heroes up the line to death.
You'd see me with my puffy petulant face,
Guzzling and gulping in the best hotel.
Reading the Roll of Honour. 'Poor young chap,'
I'd say - 'I used to know his father well;
Yes we've lost heavily in this last scrap'
And when the war is done and youth stone dead;
I'd toddle safely home and die - in bed.



In table groups,
 use your dictionary
in the way you
have been shown

to find the meaning of these words. Write a short definition.

Word or phrase	Meaning(s)	This suggests that:
base		<div style="background-color: orange; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Could 'base' have more than one meaning? </div>
fierce		
short of breath		
scarlet Majors		
glum		
puffy		
petulant		
guzzling		

Yellow

Now think about what the poet is trying to suggest or infer to the Reader by using these words.

What impact does he want to have on the Reader?

<u>Word or phrase</u>	<u>Meaning(s)</u>	<u>This suggests that:</u>
base		
fierce		
short of breath		
scarlet Majors		
glum		
puffy		
petulant		
guzzling		

Lesson 3 - Understanding, finding and using synonyms.



Stop at 00:26 seconds.

Synonyms are words with the same or similar meaning:

- Words such as happy, cheerful and merry.
- Words such as sad, miserable and heartbroken.

We use a **dictionary** to find the meaning of words.

However, we use a **thesaurus** to find words which have the same or a similar meaning - synonyms!

Group task: use your thesaurus as you have been shown to find synonyms for these words: **beautiful**; **rich**.

Lesson 3 - Task

Date				
WALT	Find synonyms and use them for impact in writing. (Imitate)	SM	PM	TM
Red	Find synonyms for given words, using a thesaurus with support.			
Yellow	Use a thesaurus to find synonyms for <u>some</u> words in 'Base Details'. Use synonyms to change <u>some</u> of the poem.			
Green	Use synonyms you have found to re-write 'Base Details' in a way that has a powerful impact on a Reader.			
<u>Presentation</u>	Excellent	Good	Improving	Poor

1. Remind yourself of the main meaning of the word and write it again.

2. In groups or partners, use a **thesaurus** to find a synonym that matches the main meaning of the word. Write it down.

<u>Word or phrase</u>	<u>First or main meaning</u>	<u>Synonym</u>
base		
fierce		
short of breath		
glum		
puffy		
petulant		
guzzling		
gulping		

Change parts
of the poem
by using the
synonyms you
have found.

Take care not
to change a
'strong' word
for a 'weak'
synonym.

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Lesson 4 - Understanding and finding **antonyms**



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zfkk7ty/articles/z8t8pbk>

Watch from 00:26 seconds.

Antonyms are words with opposite meanings:

- Words such as angry and peaceful.
- Words such as funny and serious.

You can use a thesaurus to find synonyms and antonyms for words.

Use your thesaurus in *the way you have been shown* to find antonyms (i.e. words with **opposite** meanings) for any two of words:

generous

eager

interesting

Lesson 4 - Task

Date				
WALT	Find antonyms for words used to describe character. (Innovate)	SM	PM	TM
Red	Use a thesaurus to find antonyms for given character words.			
Yellow	Use a thesaurus to find <u>good</u> antonyms for words that describe the character and the behaviour of the Majors in 'Base Details'.			
Green	Use antonyms you have found to re-write part of 'Base Details' so that you describe the Majors in a contrasting (opposite) way.			
<u>Presentation</u>	Excellent	Good	Improving	Poor

In groups or partners, use a thesaurus to find an **antonym** for these words or phrases i.e. a word or phrase that has an opposite or contrasting meaning.

Write it down.

<u>Word or phrase</u>	<u>Antonym</u>
base	
fierce	
short of breath	
glum	
puffy	
petulant	
guzzling	
gulping	
scrap	
toddle	

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Lesson 5/6 - Hot Write

Date				
WALT	Write a war poem that portrays character. (HOT WRITE)	SM	PM	TM
Red	Use <u>some synonyms</u> you have learned and <u>some words of your own</u> to re-write given lines from 'Base Details' that describe the Majors.			
Yellow	Using the poem 'Base Details' to guide you, write a poem that shows the character of army leaders.			
Green	Using aspects of the poem 'Base Details' to guide you, write a poem that shows the character of army leaders <u>and</u> of ordinary soldiers.			
<u>Presentation</u>	Excellent	Good	Improving	Poor

