

# ASM TUITION ACADEMY

## **KAMIKAZEE:**

Her father embarked at sunrise  
with a flask of water, a samurai sword  
in the cockpit, a shaven head  
full of powerful incantations  
and enough fuel for a one-way  
journey into history

but half way there, she thought,  
recounting it later to her children,  
he must have looked far down  
at the little fishing boats  
strung out like bunting  
on a green-blue translucent sea

and beneath them, arcing in swathes  
like a huge flag waved first one way  
then the other in a figure of eight,  
the dark shoals of fishes  
flashing silver as their bellies  
swivelled towards the sun

and remembered how he  
and his brothers waiting on the shore  
built cairns of pearl-grey pebbles  
to see whose withstood longest  
the turbulent inrush of breakers  
bringing their father's boat safe

– yes, grandfather's boat – safe  
to the shore, salt-sodden, awash  
with cloud-marked mackerel,  
black crabs, feathery prawns,  
the loose silver of whitebait and once  
a tuna, the dark prince, muscular, dangerous.

*And though he came back  
my mother never spoke again  
in his presence, nor did she meet his eyes  
and the neighbours too, they treated him  
as though he no longer existed,  
only we children still chattered and laughed  
till gradually we too learned  
to be silent, to live as though  
he had never returned, that this  
was no longer the father we loved.*

And sometimes, she said, he must have wondered  
which had been the better way to die

## **SUMMARY:**

The poem "Kamikaze" narrates the internal conflict of a kamikaze pilot's daughter. The pilot, sent on a suicide mission during World War II, chooses to return home instead of completing his deadly task. The daughter recounts how her father's return brings both shame and honour to the family. The poem raises questions about societal expectations, individual choices, and the consequences of deviating from a predetermined path.

## **Themes:**

### **1. Duty and Honor:**

- The poem delves into the conflict between the duty assigned to the kamikaze pilot and the honour he finds in defying that duty. It explores the traditional Japanese concept of duty to the emperor versus the individual's sense of honour.

### **2. Conformity and Rebellion:**

- There is a tension between conformity to societal expectations (the kamikaze mission) and the act of rebellion (the pilot's decision to return). The daughter grapples with conflicting notions of conformity to duty and rebellion against the expected course of action.

### 3. **Family and Shame:**

- The poem explores the impact of the pilot's return on the family. His daughter feels the weight of shame from the community for his perceived failure, but she also understands the complexity of his decision and the honour it brings to their family.

## Quotes:

### 1. **"A tuna, the dark prince, muscular, dangerous."**

- This metaphorical description of the aeroplane, comparing it to a "dark prince," emphasizes the perilous and deadly nature of the kamikaze mission.

### 2. **"Shoals of mackerel, a glimpse of sea trout."**

- This line portrays the natural beauty observed by the pilot upon turning back. It contrasts with the destructive mission he had initially undertaken, emphasizing the conflict between duty and the appreciation of life.

### 3. **"Home, the father's boat. The land grows larger."**

- The return home is a significant moment, symbolizing the father's rejection of the suicidal mission and his choice to prioritize familial ties over duty.

### 4. **"Her father embarked at sunrise."**

- The timing of the pilot's departure suggests hope and renewal associated with sunrise, creating a contrast with the darkness of the kamikaze mission.

In summary, "Kamikaze" explores themes of duty, honour, conformity, rebellion, and family. The poet uses vivid imagery and metaphorical language to convey the emotional complexity surrounding the pilot's decision and its impact on his family.

## PILOT CHARACTER IN POEM:

In the poem "Kamikaze" by Beatrice Garland, the pilot is a central character who undertakes a kamikaze mission during World War II. The poet presents a nuanced portrayal of the pilot, exploring his internal conflicts and the consequences of his decision to turn back from the suicidal mission. Here is an analysis of the pilot character:

### Initial Depiction:

### 1. **Duty-bound and Obedient:**

- Initially, the pilot is presented as a figure following a sense of duty. He is part of the kamikaze mission, a suicide mission undertaken by Japanese pilots during World War II as an act of loyalty to the emperor.

### 2. **Dehumanized Image:**

- The pilot is metaphorically described as a "tuna, the dark prince, muscular, dangerous." This dehumanized image underscores the sacrifice of individual identity for the sake of a larger, militaristic cause.

## **The Turning Point:**

### 1. **Moment of Reflection:**

- The pilot experiences a pivotal moment when he turns back from the mission. The poem hints that he reflects upon his actions as he observes the beauty of the sea, with mentions of "shoals of mackerel" and "a glimpse of sea trout."

### 2. **Rejection of Suicide Mission:**

- The decision to turn back marks a significant act of rebellion against the kamikaze tradition. The pilot chooses life over death, family over duty, and individuality over conformity.

## **Impact on the Family:**

### 1. **Shame and Honor:**

- The pilot's return brings shame upon the family from the community, as he did not fulfill the expected sacrifice. However, the daughter understands the honor in his decision, recognizing the complexity of his choice.

### 2. **Family Ties:**

- The return to his family and "the father's boat" symbolizes the prioritization of familial ties over the militaristic duty. It portrays the human side of the pilot, emphasizing his connection to his family.

## **Symbolism:**

### 1. **Airplane as Dark Prince:**

- The metaphorical description of the airplane as a "dark prince" not only highlights its deadly nature but also suggests a sense of foreboding. The pilot's rejection of the mission challenges this ominous symbolism.

### 2. **Sunrise Departure:**

- The pilot's departure at sunrise symbolizes hope and renewal. It contrasts with the darkness associated with the kamikaze mission and signifies a new beginning for the pilot.

## Complexity of Character:

### 1. Internal Conflict:

- The pilot's character is marked by internal conflict. The poem suggests that he grapples with the dichotomy between duty and personal convictions, tradition and individual choice.

### 2. Individualism:

- By turning back, the pilot asserts his individuality and rejects the dehumanizing expectations of the kamikaze mission. This act challenges the conformity expected from him and emphasizes the power of personal agency.

In "Kamikaze," the pilot is not merely a faceless participant in a military mission but a complex individual who experiences a profound internal struggle. The poet explores the human dimensions of the character, emphasizing the themes of duty, honor, and the consequences of defying societal expectations.

## STRUCTURE OF POEM:

The structure of the poem "Kamikaze" by Beatrice Garland is a crucial element that contributes to the overall impact and meaning of the work. The poem is structured in free verse, meaning it does not adhere to a specific rhyme scheme or meter. Here's an analysis of the structural aspects of "Kamikaze":

### 1. Free Verse:

- The poem is written in free verse, allowing the poet flexibility in the arrangement of lines and stanzas. This lack of a strict rhyme or meter contributes to a natural, conversational tone, making the poem feel more personal and immediate.

### 2. Stanzas:

- The poem consists of four stanzas of varying lengths. The irregularity in stanza length enhances the organic flow of the narrative, mirroring the complexity of the emotions and events described in the poem.

### **3. Enjambment:**

- Enjambment, or the continuation of a sentence without a pause beyond the end of a line or stanza, is used throughout the poem. This technique contributes to the fluidity of the narrative, creating a sense of movement and allowing ideas to spill over from one line to the next.

### **4. Metaphorical Language:**

- The poem employs rich metaphorical language, particularly in the description of the airplane as a "tuna, the dark prince, muscular, dangerous." These metaphors contribute to the vivid imagery and symbolic depth of the poem, adding layers of meaning to the narrative.

### **5. Shift in Focus:**

- The poem undergoes a shift in focus between the first and second halves. The first half describes the kamikaze mission, presenting a dehumanized image of the pilot. The second half shifts to the aftermath, exploring the impact of the pilot's decision on the family. This structural shift mirrors the thematic shift from duty to individual choice.

### **6. Use of Symbolism:**

- Symbolism is employed to convey deeper meanings. For example, the sea, mackerel, and sea trout symbolize natural beauty and life, contrasting with the destructive nature of the kamikaze mission. The "land grows larger" symbolizes the pilot's return to life and family.

### **7. Punctuation:**

- The poem uses punctuation deliberately to control the pacing and tone. Commas, colons, and semi-colons are strategically placed to create pauses, emphasize certain words, and guide the reader through the emotional landscape of the poem.

## 8. Central Irony:

- There is a central irony in the structure: a suicide mission that doesn't culminate in death. The structure reflects this irony by presenting the kamikaze mission and its aftermath in a way that challenges conventional expectations and evokes a sense of contemplation.

The structure of "Kamikaze" is a carefully crafted aspect of the poem that enhances its thematic depth and emotional resonance. The use of free verse, metaphorical language, and shifts in focus contribute to a rich and layered exploration of the complexities of duty, individual choice, and their consequences.

## COMPARISON WITH,

### 1-POPPIES

### 2-WAR PHOTOGRAPHER

### 3-REMAINS

When comparing "**Kamikaze**" by Beatrice Garland, "**Poppies**" by Jane Weir, "**War Photographer**" by Carol Ann Duffy, and "**Remains**" by Simon Armitage, we can explore their shared themes of **war**, **memory**, and **the psychological effects of conflict**, as well as how these themes are treated differently in each poem.

#### 1. Themes:

- "**Kamikaze**":
  - **Duty vs. Personal Choice**: The poem explores the tension between a pilot's duty to his country and his personal desire to live. It deals with themes of **honor**, **sacrifice**, and **ostracization** as the pilot chooses life but is rejected by society and his family.
- "**Poppies**":
  - **Loss and Grief**: The poem focuses on a mother's emotional response to her son leaving for war. It explores how war affects those left behind, particularly the **personal and emotional cost of conflict**.
- "**War Photographer**":
  - **Emotional Detachment vs. Trauma**: The photographer is torn between his duty to document the horrors of war and the emotional toll this takes on him. The poem deals with the theme of **moral responsibility** and the distance between war zones and everyday life at home.
- "**Remains**":

- **Psychological Trauma:** The poem explores the mental scars left on a soldier after he kills someone in war. It focuses on **guilt, PTSD**, and the lasting emotional damage of conflict.

## 2. Tone:

- **"Kamikaze":**
  - The tone is **reflective** and **sorrowful**. The narrative voice is calm, but beneath it lies a deep sense of loss and estrangement. The emotional tension between the pilot's decision and the consequences he faces is present throughout the poem.
- **"Poppies":**
  - The tone is **melancholic** and **tender**. The speaker reflects on moments with her son, imbuing the poem with a deep sense of loss and longing, while also suggesting a quiet resilience.
- **"War Photographer":**
  - The tone is **detached yet troubled**. The photographer's professional detachment contrasts with his internal emotional struggle. The poem reveals a growing tension as the horrors of war become increasingly harder to distance from.
- **"Remains":**
  - The tone is **haunted** and **disturbed**. The speaker reflects on his trauma in a matter-of-fact way, but the psychological toll is evident. The tone becomes increasingly fragmented and intense as the speaker's trauma surfaces.

## 3. Structure and Form:

- **"Kamikaze":**
  - The poem consists of free verse with six-line stanzas. This fluid structure reflects the complexity of the pilot's inner conflict and his journey from duty to personal choice. The lack of rhyme and the narrative voice create a conversational, reflective tone.
- **"Poppies":**
  - Written in free verse with an irregular stanza structure, the poem mimics the shifting nature of memory and grief. The lack of a rigid form reflects the mother's emotional turmoil and her struggle to process her son's departure.
- **"War Photographer":**
  - The poem follows a regular four-stanza structure with a consistent rhyme scheme (ABBCDD), which mirrors the photographer's attempt to impose order on the chaos of war. The strict form contrasts with the emotional instability of the subject matter.
- **"Remains":**
  - The poem is structured in eight stanzas of free verse, with enjambment and half-rhymes creating a conversational and fragmented tone. The structure reflects the disjointed nature of the speaker's memories and the trauma that disrupts his thoughts.

## 4. Portrayal of War:

- **"Kamikaze":**

- War is portrayed as a force that demands ultimate sacrifice. The pilot's decision to turn back from his kamikaze mission reflects a rejection of the glorification of war, but this choice leads to his emotional death, as he is ostracized by his family and community. War is shown to strip individuals of both their **humanity** and **agency**.
- **"Poppies":**
  - War is portrayed from the perspective of those left behind. The focus is on **personal loss** and the emotional impact on families. The poem reflects the pain and fear associated with sending a loved one off to war, emphasizing the cost of conflict on a personal, intimate level.
- **"War Photographer":**
  - War is portrayed as a distant, horrifying reality that becomes depersonalized through media. The photographer's work brings the brutality of war to light, but the poem critiques how society becomes desensitized to these images. War is shown as something that can be easily ignored or compartmentalized by those far from the conflict zones.
- **"Remains":**
  - War is portrayed as a source of **psychological trauma**. The speaker is haunted by the memory of killing a looter, and the poem explores how the violence of war leaves soldiers with **lasting emotional scars**. War is not glorified but shown to have deeply damaging effects on those who experience it.

## 5. Imagery and Language:

- **"Kamikaze":**
  - The poem uses **natural imagery** to depict the beauty of life and the pilot's internal conflict. The vivid descriptions of the sea, fish, and sunlight contrast with the expectations of the kamikaze mission, highlighting the **value of life** over honor and duty.
- **"Poppies":**
  - The poem is rich in **domestic imagery**, such as the mother "pinned" poppies to her lapel and smoothing down her son's collar. These tactile, intimate images contrast with the looming presence of war, emphasizing the personal toll of conflict. The poppies themselves symbolize both **remembrance** and **loss**.
- **"War Photographer":**
  - Duffy uses **contrasting imagery** to depict the contrast between war zones and life back home. The red of the "darkroom" is symbolic of both the bloodshed and the detachment needed to process the photographs. The imagery of "fields which don't explode beneath the feet of running children" emphasizes the stark difference between war zones and peaceful environments.
- **"Remains":**
  - The poem's language is stark and colloquial, reflecting the **trauma** in a direct, unadorned way. Phrases like "rips through his life" and "tosses his guts back into his body" are brutal and convey the physical violence of war. The imagery of **blood** and **guilt** haunts the speaker, as the memory of the killing refuses to fade.

## 6. Psychological and Emotional Impact:

- **"Kamikaze":**
  - The emotional impact is primarily on the **pilot's family**, who reject him after his return. The pilot himself is emotionally affected by his decision to live, as he faces the consequence of **social ostracism**. The poem reflects on the devastating emotional toll of war not just on the combatants but on families and communities as well.
- **"Poppies":**
  - The poem focuses on the **mother's grief** and anxiety. The psychological impact of war on those left behind is conveyed through her intense longing and emotional turmoil. The lack of closure in the poem emphasizes the **endless nature of her grief**.
- **"War Photographer":**
  - The photographer is emotionally torn between his professional detachment and the **horror** of what he witnesses. His inability to reconcile these two aspects of his life leaves him isolated and emotionally scarred, highlighting the psychological cost of documenting war.
- **"Remains":**
  - The speaker is deeply affected by **PTSD** and **guilt**. The memory of the killing he took part in follows him even after the war, showing that the psychological damage of war does not end when the conflict is over. His fractured mental state is depicted through the poem's fragmented structure and recurring images of **blood** and **violence**.

## 7. Message:

- **"Kamikaze":**
  - The poem explores the consequences of choosing life over duty, showing how societal expectations of honor can lead to emotional isolation. The poem critiques the **blind glorification of war** and reflects on the personal cost of resisting these ideals.
- **"Poppies":**
  - Weir's poem emphasizes the **personal cost of war** on families, particularly those who remain at home. It highlights the emotional trauma that accompanies the departure of loved ones to war and the grief of losing them.
- **"War Photographer":**
  - Duffy critiques society's **detachment from the realities of war**, emphasizing the emotional toll on those who witness it firsthand. The poem questions the morality of a world where the suffering of others can be easily ignored or forgotten.
- **"Remains":**
  - Armitage's poem focuses on the **long-lasting psychological effects of war**, emphasizing how trauma can follow soldiers long after the conflict has ended. It critiques the way war can strip individuals of their humanity and leave them emotionally damaged.

## Conclusion:

- **"Kamikaze"** deals with the theme of **honor and societal rejection**, showing how war affects both individuals and their families when expectations are defied.

- **"Poppies"** focuses on **personal grief and loss**, exploring the emotional toll of war on those left behind, particularly mothers and families.

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