

Independent Student Research Catalogue

The Winston School History Department

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First Period

America's Forgotten Tragedy

During the late 1910's, most people associate the greatest conflict of this time to be the First World War. They wouldn't be far off, as the Great War, as it was called at the time, killed just over 40 million people by the time it had ended. But what if I told you there was something much bigger and more disastrous than the entirety of the first World War? That's right, in the late between the years 1918 and 1919 a disease known as the Spanish flu wiped out over an

estimated 50 million people. Many civilian families were drastically affected by the disease, meaning that even if there were millions fighting for your country at war, you would still not be sure if you would be safe back at home. The year 1918 was the only year within the past 102 years where the U.S. had a negative population growth.² Although many have heard of this disease, most of these people are not very educated on the effects and changes it actually had on the people of the United States.

For the Fallen

Many young men died fighting in World War I in several countries in Europe. They took time out of their lives to fight for their country. They also fought for each other because they cared about each other. The men had their whole lives ahead of them but few people returned from war. People that didn't fight in the war lived longer. Laurence Binyon's poem "For the Fallen," written in 1914, is about reflecting on the men who fought in World War I. Through his poem he expresses that the soldiers who have died should never be forgotten. He implies that the soldiers are important because they came with hope when they fought in the war. Many generations later we still protect our country and we show respect to people who fight in our wars today. This should be a lesson to us because we should never give up when you're fighting for something.

Home - Edward Thomas

The poet Edward Thomas was born in London in 1878. This was in the midst of the Industrial Revolution. England was the place for the Industrial Revolution and the British had a long history of textiles. Factories replaced individual workers. Communication, transformation and banking and finance changed Britain. People left the countryside for big cities and small towns were turned into big cities. There were challenges overcoming, pollution, and bad sanitation were a result of the rapid growth. Edward Thomas was a poet of the country and his works focus on a vision of England and the countryside. He began writing poetry during the war. He wrote about his love of the countryside and culture and the struggles changes due to the industrial Revolution and the war. Edward Thomas poetry reflects on his memories of the countryside because the changes are permanent. What his beloved countryside used to be lives in his memories

War Girls - Jessie Pope

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Song of Doomed Youth - Wilfred Owen

A lot of war poems were romantic or made war seem like it was a beautiful thing. Even though it was not a beautiful thing at all it was the opposite. Wilfred Owen knew that and made a more realistic poem. He wrote about how soldiers die on the battlefield and how it is different from a

civilian death. His poem is like a song for the doomed youth and he is referring to the soldiers. People that die on the battlefield die horrible deaths. They won't be surrounded by loved ones. They die alone in cold blood. These men don't get to say goodbye to their families one last time before they go.

Break of Day in the Trenches - Issac Rosenberg

World War I was a world war that mostly took place in Europe. "Break of Day in the Trenches" written in 1916 is about a soldier, waking up in one of the trenches on the battlefield and having wandering thoughts about the situation he's in. The poem is suggesting and talking about the terrible things the common soldier in World War I had to go through every day on the battlefield but more so how it felt. Many soldiers felt desperate and did not want to be there. This poem also shows how World War I was much different from other wars both in its why of fighting but also the despair attached to it both now and in the past before the war. This despair is represented in many lines of evidence from the poem like one where he is believing that he is not likely to survive the war.

Grass - Carl Sandburg

In my poem there is a point that, all these men are dying, but the writer is ready to die and be one with the Earth. As men lay over and die they I brought down under the soil, to become fertilizer for which the grass will grow on top of them. This poem is a short but kind of harsh, because as was writing it, he knew that he was going to die. That's what makes it so harsh cuz you knew that he was going to basically become one with the grass. I feel like he put a lot of thought and meaning into it. I think you just want to be heard that all these men are dying over a family argument between countries.

Absolution - Siegfried Sassoon

During World War I, many poems were written expressing how the war was affecting the soldiers, the citizens, and the world. Few, however, take in all aspects of the war as effectively as Siegfried Sassoon's "Absolution." Written in 1914, right as the war was starting, "Absolution" expresses the harsh reality of the war while also acknowledging the positive outcomes of WWI. Many examples of these conflicting ideas are shown throughout the poem. In the first stanza, the harshness of the war and how soldiers gained more life experience are written by brief, accurate, poetic means, describing both sides in single lines. The second stanza explains not only how many soldiers lost possessions, their families, or even their own lives, but also how fighting in the war could mean freedom for soldiers. Finally, the third stanza is open for interpretation, either by what the soldiers want more of, related to the harshness of the war, or by wanting more soldiers in the war. To summarize, "Absolution" conveys two perspectives of World War I and expresses them in brief lines and stanzas.

Perhaps - Vera Brittain

Do you think it's easy to become happy after a passing? It does not come easy after being sad about people's passing's. My poem is called Perhaps by Vera Brittain. In this poem it's about how much this woman loves her fiancé and talking about all the happy times they had together. This shows how much she misses him and will never forget those happy memories. In this poem Vera Brittain is wanting to be happy but also doesn't know if she will ever be happy. This is how we know she is feeling, she is feeling upset but also is wondering if she will ever feel some sort of way again. Another very important part to this poem is the author is making us feel some sort of way by telling how different life was back then. She feels that one day she will find

happiness. This supports my thesis because she still not sure if she will be happy. When people are hurt or upset they will take more time to feel themselves again. Vera Brittain is now trying to tell us she is trying to feel herself again. This last piece of evidence is now telling us she is now beginning to feel herself but is still upset. This states that it takes time to recover from a lost or just being sad. In the poem it took the women to find her happiness. This all matters because the poem is trying to tell the reader that it takes time to be happy after some has passed or is upset.

Second Period

Dead Man's Dump - Issac Rosenberg

When most people think of war they think of massive fights and bombs with a beautiful victory but Issac Roseberg's "Dead Man's Dump" reveals how a soldier sees no man's land, the wasteland between enemies on a battlefield. In this poem the reader obtains a clearer picture of how the soldiers feel a sense of dread or warning when experiencing no man's land and the opposing enemies. Whilst reading this one will come across the descriptions and details Issac Roseberg gave the person reading this an accurate view of how no man's land was. Rosenberg shares his sense of dread of the unknown enemy, an image of battle, and afterwards, the destruction of the battlefield, further illustrating his idea of "no man's land". Issac Roseberg provides a more personal account of war which is important because we can actually start to learn from his experiences without even setting foot on the battlefield.

The Messages - Wilfrid Wilson Gibson

When looked back on, WWI was a very terrible thing. But when people were marching in to war back then, it was looked at as a romantic thing, with roses and cavalry heroes. But war is all but that. War is a sad thing, many people shooting and stabbing at each other with no remorse, just makes you feel down when thinking about it. Just like WWI, The Messages by Wilfrid Wilson Gibson is a very saddening poem about the speaker losing his mind due to the psychological damages of war, and people speaking their last words in the trenches of WWI, hence the name The Messages. In the poem, he is more than likely suffering from memory loss because of the way he wrote the repeated stanza. Also, In the poem, he speaks about how family and friends are waiting for him to return. But silence is all that they receive. Wilfrid uses excruciating detail while still leaving enough room for the reader to paint the picture for themselves. This poem describes WWI in a way that cold statistics cannot.

Rain - Edward Thomas

When academics talk about war, they usually refer to casualty rates, strategy causes of conflict, and technology levels. However, they rarely have the liberty or care to take a more personal level and truly depict the scars war inflicts on the mind. After the war, many men and women began reflecting on death through writing, weaving their insights into reality with pen and parchment. Among the most famous of these macabre poets was a British soldier named Edward Thomas, who fought in the trenches for a large chunk of the war. Thomas wrote many vivid poems throughout his life, but his most famous work is known by a single poignant word: Rain. In this poem, the author used his vivid, somber, language to paint his melancholic despair over the nature of death and all that it had stripped away from him and everyone else he knew. Through excerpts in the poem, it is easy to identify Thomas's intent as he compares himself to the world around him. Thomas's poems are special because he speaks with the weight of a man who has witnessed the horrors of war firsthand. Despite his audience's lack of firsthand experience, Rain has the ability to evoke emotion in it's audience, connecting Thomas's somber pondering to the reader gracefully. It is this quality that makes Rain so meaningful; it reflects not merely on death, but on the meaning of life in a universe that consumes us all.

Such, Such is Death - Charles Sorley

Has someone ever promise something to you if you did something and once you did it they took it away from you or never gave it. This is exactly what had happened during world war one. During world war one Charles Sorley along with many other soldiers, were sent out to war. They were told of great things about the war and how they were doing the right thing for their country. But once they got there it was very different than what they were told. Their were no cavalry recharges and no quick glorious victories only death and sorrow. To convey what was happing some soldiers like Charles Sorley turned to poetry to depict what was happing around them. In Such such as death Charles Sorley is writing about death during the war and what it is like. In addition, Some might argue how he is worshiping death but in this, there is evidence to the contrary. Through out this poem the author, directly and indirectly, states that he is opposed to facing death. Studying war poems can give a greater understanding of what these soldiers when though and help us not repeat the mistakes over again or come to the wrong conclusion from what we have read.

The Dead, Rupert Brooke

Rupert Brooke, a World War I poet, is the author of The Dead, written in 1914. This famous poem highlights life and the beauty of the afterlife as a response to the fallen soldiers in the war. Brooke makes a strong point that while life is beautiful, so is heaven and the afterlife. Brooke touches on the joys of being human and living day to day life brings. He reminisces on friendship, music, and happiness. Brooke captivates the reader by making them feel nostalgic and appreciative of the positive things the reader has experienced throughout life. Brooke then changes his focal point to the afterlife. He paints a desirable picture of the afterlife using intriguing words. This makes death seem less terrifying to readers. By creating a warm feeling in the first stanza of the poem, Brooke is able to use his words to play off that warm feeling and seamlessly mend the bridge between life and death for his readers. Brooke chose words that made the reader feel happy, nostalgic, and uplifted. This helped put the reader in a mindset to understand why the afterlife was a positive thing and put a less tragic spin on World War I.

Into Battle - Julian Grenfell

When most historians discuss the campaign and battles during Into Battle this will give a visual, and a perspective on what it was really like during that period. Into Battle was the time starting WWI, the first battle in history/decades. Into Battle was very gruesome and a very tragic time where young men were fighting in the frontline near trenches, and had to lose their life's by flying rounds of bullets, and all the chaos around distracting troops and soldiers during the battle that caught off certain attention. Going Into Battle started well and not so well! Into Battle was the war around WWI, when I read the poem by Julian Grenfell, The poem started I wouldn't say calm but somewhat peaceful. It was all green, the sun was bright and the landscape beautiful like spring. The Battle starts and it gets darker and darker when the time comes. The sun starts to fade away and the sky smokes up because of the bullets and the gas power from the rifles and the weapons. It just gets very violent and depressing when the sun starts to fade away in the sky. Into Battle was the start of WWI, but there is also a bit of a mean and question to the war, what Started the war and the cause and effect about the war? Well what could have started the battle was one government agreement, so political heat, two economic resources like money and etc., and also a bigger factor in the war was land. Countries wanted land that were bigger and had better resources for the people that were living in whatever country. What makes this war so sad and depressing is that, during battle young men and sometimes women mostly men are out on the frontlines battling their enemies and fighting their way through freedom. Run towards trenches and cover from flying bullets, even if you were a couple of miles

farther from the fight, and the enemy had a stronger rifle or gun it could reach that point and instantly kill someone from that far of distance. After the battle young men were either shot dead or they were wounded and blind from bullets. Each soldier is crying for help fighting their way from victor. But also you have to realize this too, that there was winning involved but that's not what the citizens and people wanted. They wanted peace, love and freedom. Not war not deaths not tragedies, all people wanted was peace and love. Unfortunately that did not happen in that case. This is the true essay on Into Battle!

U.S. History

A Turning Point in the Pacific; The Attack on Pearl Harbor

When the battle of Pearl Harbor is mentioned, people think of the surprise bombing on the U.S Naval base found on Oahu Island, Hawaii. But in fact this was the crucial turning point for the United States to join this war against Japan. With the U.S Naval fleet unprepared, Mitsuo Fuchida who was the captain of this fleet, led the devastating bombing which resulted in 2403 United State casualties. This upset the U.S substantially due to the Japanese and the United States having an alliance. It is clear to see this was the turning point for the United States and the people to get invested into the war to come. There were a total of 126 enemy planes in the air when the U.S was so unprepared and could only get 6 of their own planes up and fighting. This sends more information to the people that they need to step up and take action in this war that is upon them.

Before the Final Solution; Nazi Engineered Terror

When people think of the struggles that Jews faced in WWII people think of them in concentration camps. Nothing can compare to the suffering that these people went through. However, that doesn't mean other people didn't endure terrible experiences under the rule of the Nazis. Despite the lack of attention given to them, members of Jewish communities who were not taken to concentration camps were still terrorized and abused. Through a series of events, the Nazis terrorized Jewish communities well before reaching the Final Solution. Each event escalated in intensity and cruelty, consistently progressing from the boycotting Jewish owned businesses, to the establishment of the Nuremberg Race Laws, and then to the horror of Kristallnacht. With every one of these events, the Nazi government became fiercer and crueler, until their goal was met; the extermination of the Jewish people. The beatings and killings of these Jewish people from 80 years ago is still of relevance today, as it helps humans avoid doing this in the future. Studying these events shows us that we should not always do things just because we are capable of them, nor should we pursue policies motivated by hate.

The Life of Adolf Hitler

Adolf Hitler was the fourth out of six children, Adolf Hitler was born from Alois Hitler and Klara Polzl. As a child, Hitler clashed frequently with his emotionally harsh and mean father, who also didn't approve of his son's later interest in fine art as a career. Hitler loved making art and wanted to do it a lot. His brother died as was detached and depressed. Hitler did not want to follow his father's footsteps as a civil servant, he began struggling in secondary school and had eventually dropped out. Alois died in 1903, and Adolf pursued his dream of being an artist. Hitler was born on April 20, 1889, in the Upper Austrian border town in Braunau am Inn, located approximately 65 miles east of Munich. Hitler moved because he wanted to avoid an arrest for evading his military service obligation to Habsburg Austria. He financed his move with the last installment of his inheritance from his father.

The LBGTQ+ experience During World War II

In many history classes, the topic of the Lgbtq+ community is rarely covered. This leaves many people thinking that this is just a trend, when in fact, the Lgbtq+ community has been here for quite some time. Going back into history around the time WW2, when crossdressing passes were given to certain people and when studies were being done on the science of trans people. These crossdressing passes were given to people who passed as the other gender, and people couldn't imagine them going back to how they looked before. They gave these passes so that police officers couldn't harass them for dressing as the opposite gender.

Bombsights and Radar; Technological Advances of World War II

World War II militaries developed massive technology and interventions to battle other countries. Sighting: when a bomb is dropped from an airplane it does not fall straight down, but it actually moves forward as it falls. It is caused by the horizontal movement of the plane in flight.

Following the bomb is affected by the air resistance created by falling through the air, which causes the bomb to always be behind the plane when it strikes the target. Aircraft must be flying in a vertical plane passing through the target at the time of a bomb release and also operating on an even keel. Bombing during World War II was virtually always done when flying either up or downwind. Even when new bomb sights were used during a bomb run, they were using so many aircraft that the result became more of an area bombing than a strategic one. In 1944 bombers attacked Berlin resulting in approximately 25,000 civilian deaths.

Radar: Dictation radar is used to create an electric map of all objects in all directions, and as large a distance as possible. The purpose of this type of Radar is for early warning detection against aircraft and ships, ground controlled intercept of aircraft, and mapping ground terrain for navigation and targeting by a bomber. Issues of radar allowed them to defend against German air attacks because they knew where the majority of the German Air Force was heading. Although Germany was in afflicted significant damages during the air raids, without the warning from Radar the cost that British experienced could have been dramatically more widespread. This matters because during World War II the military didn't have the technology that we have today. It is so cool how the military has grown about technology and how they were made about bombsights and radars and how to help them fight for the war.

But at What Cost; An Overview of the Use of Atomic Weapons in World War II

The project that I am working on is on the Atomic Bomb when the United States dropped two bombs over two cities of Nagasaki & Hiroshima. The main central idea to this project talks about the harsh event that the Japanese faced during the explosion of the bombs and survivors that experienced this intense event. The project will talk about who the world war II pilots that dropped the bomb, what type of plane they were using that dropped the bomb, what type of atomic bomb that was dropped, how high the bomb was dropped to the surface, atomic bomb radius and the size the space took up of the explosion, talking about how many casualties were lost, how much the city was taken out by the explosion, and how it all recovered after the major event from the explosion by talking on the cost to rebuild Hiroshima & Nagasaki.

The Role of Animals in WWII

People weren't the only ones who participated in world war 2. Animal! Animals worked alongside humans in the war. There was a bear named Voytek. Voytek traveled to Iraq, Palestine, Egypt and then Italy, not many bears can say they have done that. Voytek stood 6 feet tall and weighed 880 pounds. Dolphin were used and tested in the Navy and used for their echolocation. This is a technique dolphins use to see better and be more aware of their surroundings. They studied this technique to advance divers safety. A French pigeon named

Gustav assisted in delivering messages. He was one out of six other messenger pigeons who relayed messages on D-Day. In the second world war, a marine by the name Frank Williams, owned a dog named Judy. Judy and the other marines got captured by the Japanese and were prisoners of war. Judy was protective over her fellow POWs, and would bark and growl when they were being beat. She would leave and bring back food for the prisoners. And just like your brow gel, animals came in clutch.