



For Those in Peril on the Sea: A Muse at Sea

Lesson Plan: – A Muse at Sea	
Teacher/s	Date
Subject: History	Year
Learning Objectives Know the names of the different types of warships at the Battle of Jutland. Use a range of historical information including primary poetry sources. Develop a range of vocabulary appropriate to poetic expression.	Success Criteria The pupils will develop their creative responses to the war at sea through poetry.
Key Questions What impression do these naval vessels: battleship, sea-plane carrier and submarine create in poetic terms?	
Starter Activity/Introduction Put a number of words in a sweet bag related to the sea e.g. spray, marine, flotilla, merchantman, admiral and so on. Ask the pupils to pick a word from the sweet bag. Ask them what the word 'sounds' like. We are not after the meaning of the word at this stage. They can then begin their own hunt for words to do with the sea in a thesaurus, dictionaries and the internet. Pupils should have a collection of words and phrases that they may use in their own poems. The website indicated in resources will provide further stimulation in the hunt for words and phrases of ships and the sea.	Resources Sweet bag with words connected to the sea and ships written on card or slips of paper. For images of ships during world war one: http://www.theatlantic.com/static/infocus/wwi/wwisea/
Main Activity The poet, Edward Hilton Young enlisted in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve on 22 August 1914. He took part as a gunnery officer in the daring raid of Zeebrugge and won the DSC (Distinguished Service Cross). For most of the war he served aboard HMS Iron Duke. Whilst serving on this ship he wrote a small collection of poems that were published in 1919 under the title 'A Muse at Sea'. Read the selected poems out loud. The battleship and the submarine have been chosen. Analyse one or both of the poems in detail. Discuss how the poet achieves the effect of being aboard one of these ships. Work through the activity sheet on the poem. What is the poet saying? Has he succeeded in achieving a powerful poem?	Resources 'A Muse at Sea' - pick two poems as examples – battleship, submarine. The whole collection of poems can be viewed on: https://archive.org/stream/museatseaverses00kennuoft/museatseaverses00kennuoft_djvu.txt
Plenary Pupils read out their poems for discussion.	Resources





For Those in Peril on the Sea: A Muse at Sea

Activities



Voices - The Battleship says:

Read through the poem and listen to the SOUNDS of the words and phrases the poet, Hilton Young uses.

Battleships were fast ships and armed with many guns. Underline the words in the poem where the poet shows the speed at which they travel for

example 'weave our majestic maze'.

Find out what the phrase 'flaming blast of our breath' means? How does this give a sense of the power of the battleship?

What special words does the poet use in his poem, for example, what is a 'Gorgon'?

Are there any RHYMES in the poem? Why has the poet used them?

Are there any examples of ALLITERATION? Why have they been used?

Can you find examples of METAPHORES and SIMILES?

Write down as many words as you can think of to do with the crashing of waves and an endless sea for example 'green glass molten sea'.

My poem... The Battleship says...



For Those in Peril on the Sea: A Muse at Sea



Voices – The Submarine says:

Underline the words and phrases that describe the submarine or those hunting for submarines for example 'beast' 'wolves'.

Why has the poet used these words to describe submarines?

Can you find an example of ALLITERATION? Why does the poet use this?

Think what might you FEEL if you were a crewman aboard a submarine deep under the sea? Write down words and phrases like: 'buried', 'lost', 'confined', 'suffocating'.

How would you FEEL when an enemy warship or a merchant ship came in sight ... 'excitement', 'fear', 'like a hunter of the deep' ?

My poem – The Submarine Says:



For Those in Peril on the Sea: A Muse at Sea

Written on H.M.S. Iron Duke, 1915.

The Battleships say:

Fierce, implacable ghosts,
in patience we hold our ways,
and weave our majestic maze;
join it, if join you dare!
The ranks of our spectral hosts
stand first in the house of death;
who shall face our Gorgon glare,
or the flaming blast of our breath?

The Submarines say:

No sound, no stir, no sight,
yet watching early and late,
is there one that waits at your gate
like a fierce, blind beast of the deep
with feelers stretched to the light?
Say, can you fight? can you flee?
You are penned in a ditch like sheep
for fear of the wolves of the sea!

Voices from the *Muse at Sea* by Edward Hilton Young