**Survivors**

No doubt they'll soon get well; the shock and strain
Have caused their stammering, disconnected talk.

Of course they're 'longing to go out again,'—

These boys with old, scared faces, learning to walk.

They'll soon forget their haunted nights; their cowed
Subjection to the ghosts of friends who died,—
Their dreams that drip with murder; and they'll be proud

Of glorious war that shatter'd all their pride…

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Men who went out to battle, grim and glad;

Children, with eyes that hate you, broken and mad.

Soldiers are like prematurely aged children who have lost their innocence and their dreams. The hate these soldiers feel is addressed to the people who supported the war even though they could never understand its horror. Young soldiers are broken and alienated.

Once again, the reassuring statement that they will soon forget their haunted nights is contradicted by the description of what haunts them in their sleep. Indeed, their sleep is filled with the nightmares of the ghosts of friends who died in battle and the horrific scenes on the battlefield.

With irony and sarcasm, echoing the comments of hypocritical people who have never experienced the horrors of the front, the poet suggests that all soldiers were looking forward to going back to the front.

The poet sarcastically writes that the soldiers will be proud of the glorious war. In fact, the writer implies that the war shattered both their pride and self-esteem as men and sldiers

The poet highlights the hopes and the blind patriotism of these proud, young men, who went to war, glad to be serving their country.

The poet cynically and ironically remarks that the wounded and shell-shocked soldiers will be fine soon and that persistent stammering and stuttering are simply the effect of stress and fear.

This is again negated by describing the soldier's faces as 'old' and 'scared,' contrasting the youth and innocence of the soldiers with the ageing process of the war and showing how war made these courageous men scared and old before their time. The shell shock physically affected the young soldiers who also suffered from paralysis or muscle contractions and had to learn to walk again.

LIVEWORKSHEETS