

KEY VOCABULARY: POWER AND CONFLICT POETRY

Word	Meaning
autonomy	Being independent and making your own decisions.
brutality	Extreme cruelty or violence.
colonialism	When one country takes control over another country, usually for the benefit of the country taking over.
conditioning	How people learn and view things based on their experience of society.
conflict	A clash, fight or disagreement between two opposing sides.
corrupt	When someone uses their power unfairly to make life better for themselves.
critique	A judgement or criticism of something.
<i>cyclical</i>	When something happens in a repeated pattern.
dehumanise	To treat someone as if they are less than human.
desensitised	When someone is less likely to feel shocked by a situation because they have seen it so many times.
desperation	Needing or wanting something very much.
domestic	Relating to the running of a home, house or family.
duty	A responsibility to do something.
<i>enjambment</i>	When a sentence continues after the end of a line in a poem, with no punctuation at the end of the line.
enlightenment	When you've found knowledge/understanding about something (opposite of ignorance).
exploitation	The act of treating someone unfairly to benefit from their work.
<i>free verse</i>	Poetry that does not rhyme or have a regular rhythm.
heritage	A person's background in terms of race or culture.
hierarchy	A system of organising people based on how important they are.
honour	Reputation and respect for doing the right thing.
hubris	Too much pride or self-confidence.
humanise	To show qualities or weaknesses making someone seem more human and deserving sympathy.
identity	What makes a person who they are, based on things are special or important to them.
ignorance	A lack of knowledge, awareness or education.
inescapable	Unable to be avoided.
inevitable	Certain to happen – unavoidable.
influence	The power to affect someone or something.
injustice	A lack of fairness.
internal conflict	A struggle within someone's mind over what to do or feel.
isolation	Being far away from other places, buildings or people.
<i>juxtaposition</i>	When a writer places two different things together for a reason.
lament	An expression of deep sadness or regret.
manipulate	To control or influence someone or something unfairly.
<i>metaphor</i>	A comparison between something being described (tenor) and something else (vehicle).
<i>monologue</i>	A long speech by one person.
morality	Knowing right from wrong.
<i>motif</i>	A symbolic image or idea that is repeated in a text.
naïve	When you easily trust or believe things because you don't know much about life.
<i>non-standard English</i>	Language that is not considered correct and is usually used informally.
obsession	The state of always having something on your mind.
oppression	When power is used cruelly over people and they lose rights or freedom.
<i>pathos</i>	When a writer makes us feel pity, sad or sympathetic.
patriarchy	A society where men have the power.
patriotism	Having or showing a devotion to your country.
perpetuate	To make something continue for a long time.
<i>personification</i>	Giving human features to something non-human.
perspective	How someone sees something; their point of view.
persuasion	The act of convincing someone to do something or believe something.
poverty	The state of being impoverished (extremely poor).
prejudice	An unfair and untrue opinion or belief against a person or group.
propaganda	Information (usually false) which is spread to promote a cause.
responsibility	A duty to deal with something.
<i>rhyme</i>	When lines end with words that sound the same (often in a pattern like AABB or ABAB).

<i>rhythm</i>	The pattern of syllables in lines of poetry.
rigidity	When something is unchanging.
<i>semantic field of...</i>	A set of words linked to the same thing.
<i>setting</i>	The place and time of events in a story.
severe	Describes something very strict or harsh.
<i>shift</i>	An important change or development in a story.
<i>social commentary</i>	Writing about issues in society.
social inequality	When groups of people in society are not treated equally.
society	People living together as a community.
<i>stanza</i>	A group of lines in a poem.
status	A person's position in society.
<i>structure</i>	The deliberate order of events in a story.
subvert	To go against expectations.
suppression	Stopping something by force.
<i>symbolism</i>	Something that represents or stands for a bigger idea.
transience	When something only lasts a short time – not permanent.
trauma	A long-lasting emotional response to something shocking.
trivialise	To make something seem less important than it really is.
tyranny	A government with a single ruler (a tyrant) who has absolute power over all decisions.
unpredictable	When someone or something can change suddenly without reason.
victim	Someone who has been harmed, often by other people.
vulnerability	The state of being easily harmed.