

Teaching notes

Pre-reading activities

1. Images and meaning

Using the PowerPoint presentation, show students a series of images linked to key words in the poem. It's timed so that they have 15 seconds per image to write down what the word makes them think of.

Once they have seen the series of images, give students the differentiated task to consider what these images might mean or suggest about the poem they are about to read:

Bronze: what do you predict the poem might be about from these images?

Silver: what links can you think of between some of the images you saw?

Gold: what atmosphere do you think the poet is trying to create with these images?

2. Context

This could be set as homework prior to the lesson, or done as an introductory activity to explore the title of the poem. Ask students what their first reactions to the word 'kamikaze' are. Then, get them to read the article from the Daily Mail website, 'The Reluctant Kamikaze,' found here: www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-407784/The-Reluctant-Kamikazes.html. They could do this in pairs with one reading and the other highlighting five facts they find most interesting. Then, share ideas about how their first impressions have changed, or how their understanding has grown.

Analysing the poem

Use the final slide on the PowerPoint presentation to guide the following task which will develop students' ideas on the poem. In seven groups, give students a stanza each from the poem, blown up onto A3. Give students a few minutes to read the stanza and respond to the first question by annotating the stanza. Then, get them to pass the stanza on and reveal a new question. They should add to the ideas with further annotation. Repeat three more times. After the final question, get each group to feed back to the class, extending their ideas with questioning throughout.