



Protecting the Tyne: Tyne Pilots and the River Tyne at War

Lesson Plan: Protecting the Tyne: Tyne Pilots and the River Tyne at War – A Muse at Sea	
Teacher/s:	Date:
Subject: History and Geography	Year: Year 5
Learning Objectives: 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 and weapons create in poetic terms?	
Starter Activity/Introduction Put a number of words in a sweet bag related to the sea e.g. spray, marine, ocean swell, and so on. Ask the pupils to pick a word from the sweet bag. What do the words 'sound' like. We are not after the meaning of the words at this stage. Show the pupils a selection of images of the war at sea from the internet. Write down the words and phrases suggested by the images. Search for further words and phrases in a thesaurus, dictionary and on the internet. Pupils should have gathered a collection of words and phrases that they might use in their own poems. The website indicated in resources will provide further stimulation in the hunt for words to be captured in readiness to use in their compositions.	Resources Sweet bag with words connected to the sea and ships written on card or slips of paper. http://www.theatlantic.com/static/infocus/wwwi/wwisea/
Main Activity Distribute copies of the poems: 'The Submarine says...', 'Mine Sweeping Trawlers' Edward Hilton Young, 'The Song of the Submarine' William Booth. A more difficult poem but with rewarding imagery - 'Dawn off the Foreland...' 'The Trade' Rudyard Kipling. Edward Hilton Young enlisted in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve on 22 August 1914. He was a gunnery officer in the daring raid on 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 was published in 1919 under the title 'A Muse at Sea'. 'The Song of the Submarine' was used as preface in the American magazine <i>Truth</i> for 4th November 1914. It was published anonymously. The writer later disclosed his identity as William Booth, an officer serving in the Royal Navy. Rudyard Kipling became enormously famous for a range of popular books including 'The Jungle Book'. He lost his only son, John (Jack) in the war and never forgave himself for using his influence to gain a position in the army for his son, despite his son having poor eyesight. Kipling wrote many poems based on the sea war. Read through the poems in detail. How does the poet achieve his effect?	Resource The poems: 'The Submarine says...' 'Mine Sweeping Trawlers' Edward Hilton Young, 'Dawn off the Foreland...' 'The Trade' Rudyard Kipling. 'The Song of the Submarine' William Booth Power point of war at sea Activity sheets
Plenary Read the poems aloud for discussion.	Resources



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The Song of the Submarine

This is the song of the submarine
Afloat on the waters wide.
Like a sleeping whale
In the starlight pale,
Just flush with the swirling tide.
The salt sea ripples against her plates
The salt wind is her breath,
Like the spear of fate
She lies in wait,
And her name is Sudden Death.
I watch the swift destroyers come,
Like greyhounds lank and lean,
And their long hulks sleek
Play hide-and-seeek
With me on the waters green.
I watch them with my single eye,
I see their funnels flame,
And I sing Ho! Ho!

As I sink below,
Ho! Ho! For a glorious game!
I roam the seas from Scapa Flow
O the Bight of Heligoland;
In the Dover Strait
I lie in wait
On the edge of Goodwin's Sand.
I am here and there and everywhere,
Like the phantom of a dream,
And I sing Ho! Ho!
Through the winds that blow,
The song of the submarine!

William Booth



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The Song of the Submarine William Booth

Read through the poem and underline any words or phrases you don't understand.

Why does the poet use capital letters for 'Sudden Death'?

Why are the destroyers described as 'greyhounds'?

What is the 'single eye' of the submarine?

Where is the 'Bight of Heligoland', Dover Strait? Why would the submarine lie in wait here?

What **metaphors, similies, alliteration and personification** does the poet use to describe the submarine?

What words and phrases does the poet use to describe the atmosphere of the sea?

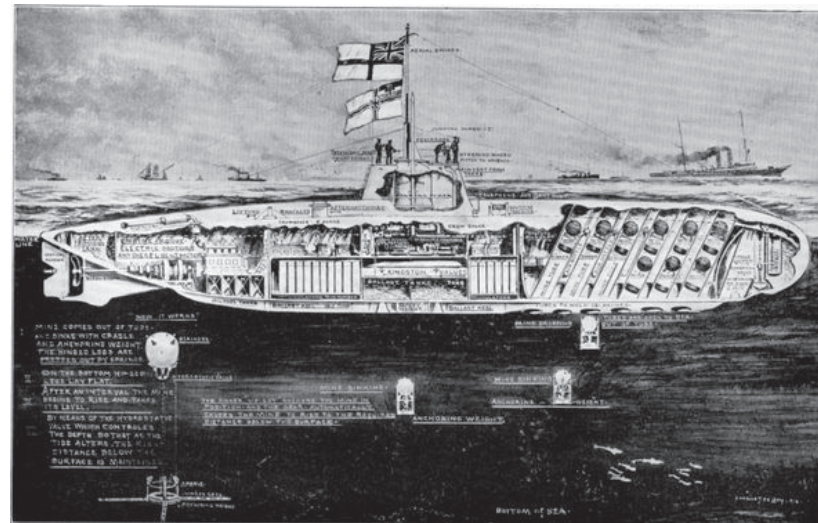
How does he give the sense that the hunt is like a 'game'? The result could be death and destruction so why does he write as if war is a 'game'?

Can you work out what the rhyming pattern is? Use A and B to show the pattern e.g

Line 1 A

Line 2 B

Line 3 A and so on.





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Mine Sweeping Trawlers Edward Hilton Young

Mine-Sweeping Trawlers
Not our's the fighter's glow
the glory and the praise.
Unnoticed to and fro
we pass our dangerous ways.

We sift the drifting sea
and blindly grope beneath:
obscure and toilsome we.
the fishermen of death.

But when the great ships go
to battle through the gloom,
our hearts beat high to know
we cleared the path of doom.

Read through Edward Hilton Young's poem
'Mine Sweeping Trawlers'

Underline any words or phrases you don't understand.
What does the poet mean when he writes,
'Not ours the fighter's glow', the glory, and the praise'?
Why does the mine sweeping trawler have 'to blindly
grobe..'?
Why are they the 'fishermen of death'?

How do they play a very important role in the sea battle?
What is the rhyming pattern the poet uses? Use the let-
ters A and B to show this pattern.

Can you find any examples of metaphors, similies,
alliteration, personification?



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The Trade

They bear, in place of classic names,
Letters and numbers on their skin.
They play their grisly blindfold games
In little boxes made of tin.
Sometimes they stalk the Zeppelin,
Sometimes they learn where mines are laid,
Or where the Baltic ice is thin.
That is the custom of "The Trade."

Few prize-courts sit upon their claims.
They seldom tow their targets in.
They follow certain secret aims
Down under, Far from strife or din.
When they are ready to begin
No flag is flown, no fuss is made

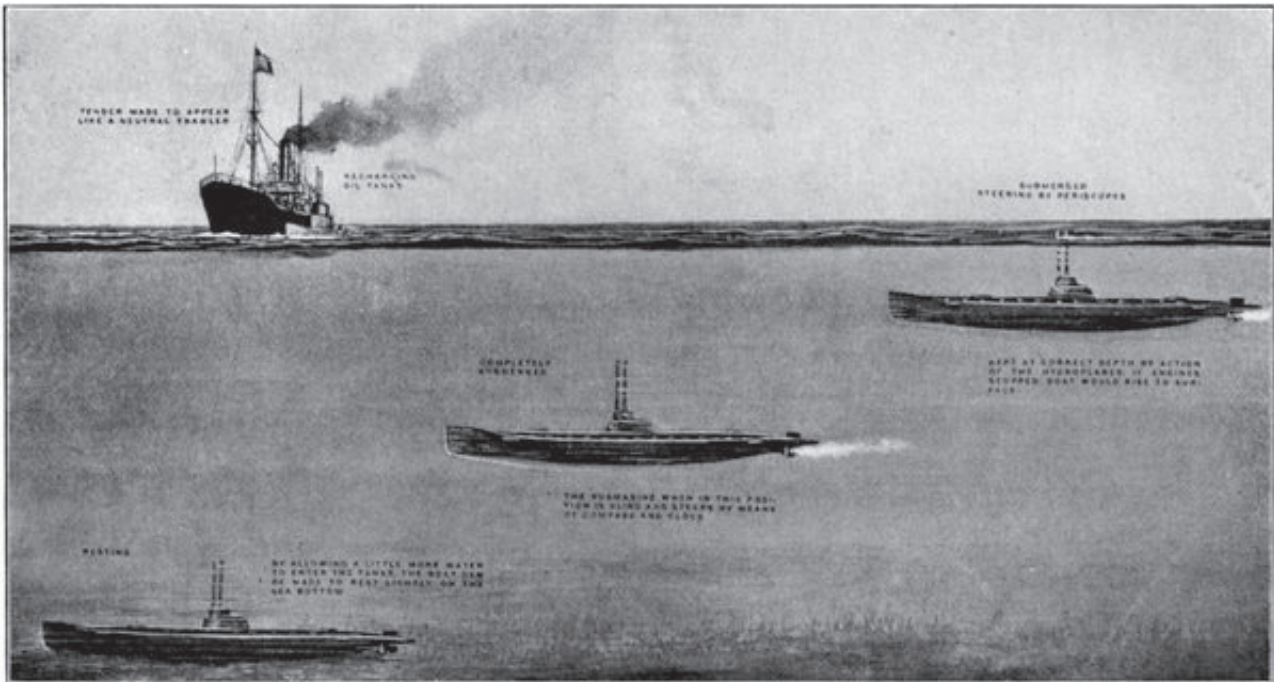
More than the shearing of a pin.
That is the custom of "The Trade."
The Scout's quadruple funnel flames
A mark from Sweden to the Swin,
The Cruiser's thund'rous screw proclaims
Her comings out and goings in:
But only whiffs of paraffin
Or creamy rings that fizz and fade
Show where the one-eyed Death has been
That is the custom of "The Trade."

Their feats, their fortunes and their fames
Are hidden from their nearest kin
No eager public backs or blames,
No journal prints the yarn they spin
(The Censor would not let it in!)
When they return from run or raid.
Unheard they work, unseen they win.
That is the custom of "The Trade."

Rudyard Kipling



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'The Trade'

This is a much more difficult poem. Underline any words or phrases you don't understand.

Pick out any words or phrases that you think give us a vivid picture of the war at sea?

What does the poet mean when he writes that the submarines do not have 'classic names'?

'but only numbers on their skin'?

What does the poet mean when he writes, 'they play their grisly blindfold games'?

How does the poet tell us the submarine actions are not widely known?

The poet keeps returning to this phrase 'the trade'. What does he mean 'that is the custom of their trade'?

Can you work out the rhyming pattern of the poem using ABC?