

# “Dulce et Decorum Est” by Wilfred Owen (Deconstructed) Poetry Explication 11CP

## Big Picture

1. Reading Comprehension: *Summarize* in complete sentences the events that are taking place.  
(Do not try to interpret or apply meaning yet. That part will come later.)

Stanza 1

Stanzas 2 & 3

Stanza 4

## Little Picture

2. Diction: Define in your own words or with a dictionary the following words (line #s provided):

- sludge (2)
- trudge (4)
- shod (6)
- Five-Nines (8)
- floundering (12)
- cud (23)
- zest (25)
- ardent (26)

3. Imagery: Look closely at the first stanza. List 10 words or phrases from lines 1-8 that describe the marching soldiers. Include line numbers.

- |    |     |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6.  |
| 2. | 7.  |
| 3. | 8.  |
| 4. | 9.  |
| 5. | 10. |

4. Imagery: Owen describes the effects of gas as drowning (14). In complete sentences, explain why Owens makes this comparison. Length: 1 paragraph

### **Big Picture**

5. The title is loosely translated as “It is sweet and fitting to die for your country.” However, Owen calls it “the old Lie” (27). In complete sentences, explain why it is a lie. Length: 1 paragraph
6. What is Owen’s overall message? Move past summary and offer your own interpretation. Explain your answer thoroughly in complete sentences. Length: 1 paragraph