

“The Soldier” by Rupert Brooke

(Deconstructed) Poetry Explication 11H

LITERACY GROUPS

DISCUSS

1. What country is the speaker most likely from?
2. What is the speaker literally referring to when he says “there’s some corner of a foreign field”? (2)
3. What is the “richer dust” in lines 4-5?
4. How many times is “England” mentioned in the poem? What effect does the repetition of “England” give to the poem?
5. Who is the presumed audience of the poem?
6. What is the tone of the poem? Quote 2-3 words or phrases as evidence. Include line numbers.

PRESENT

7. Brooke writes, “there’s some corner of a foreign field / that is for ever England” (3). **Why** is that corner “for ever England”?
8. What is the speaker’s purpose for writing this particular poem? In other words, what does the speaker want the reader to think and feel?
9. Generally, it is dangerous to read too much into the life of the poet when analyzing poetry because it often leads to a limited or inaccurate analysis. However, World War I poetry is unique in the way that poets drew directly from their own experiences, often from within the trenches. It is clear that the experiences of Owen, Sassoon, and Brooke shaped the message and tone of their poetry. With this in mind, consider “The Soldier.” It was written during the first year of the war. Rupert Brooke served in the war, but he was never at the front lines of battle. (He died in 1915 before the end of the war because of a blood infection caused by a mosquito bite.) Compare/contrast “The Soldier” with one of the other three poems you read in class.