

“The Last Laugh” by Wilfred Owen

(Deconstructed) Poetry Explication 11CP

Big Picture

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

Stanza 1

Stanza 2

Stanza 3

Little Picture

2. The speaker describes the deaths of three different soldiers. Each stanza is a different soldier. What are the last words of each soldier? List their quotes below (include line numbers).

Soldier 1

Soldier 2

Soldier 3

3. Diction: Briefly define the following words (line #s provided):

- guffawed (5)
- tittered (10)
- languid (11)
- rabbles (14)

4. Owen capitalizes words *in the middle of sentences* in lines 3, 5, 8, 13, 15. List the words below:

<i>Line 3:</i>	<i>Line 8:</i>	<i>Line 15:</i>
<i>Line 5:</i>	<i>Line 13:</i>	

5. List 8 examples of weapons being personified. Include line numbers.

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6. Onomatopoeia is the use of words which imitate sounds, like bang, buzz, or meow. However, the term can also be expanded to refer to any word that uses sound to suggest meaning. Identify three examples of onomatopoeia in the poem, including line numbers.

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7. Put a star next to all words from #3 that could be associated with the sound of laughter.

Big Picture

8. What does it mean to get the last laugh? (Refer to the general use of the expression, not in context of the poem or WWI).

9. Thoroughly explain your interpretation of the poem's title. Include what you know from #5, #6, and #8 and how personification and onomatopoeia contribute to the overall meaning.