

“Strange Meeting” by Wilfred Owen

Textual Question Answers – *Strange Meeting*

1. What is the central theme of “Strange Meeting”?

→ The poem explores the horror and futility of war. It presents a dreamlike encounter between two dead soldiers—one of whom the speaker has killed—highlighting the shared humanity of enemies.

2. Where does the “strange meeting” take place?

→ The meeting takes place in a surreal, hellish underworld or the afterlife, likely beneath the battlefield, where dead soldiers confront the truth about war.

3. What does the speaker learn from the enemy soldier?

→ The speaker learns that the man he killed was just like him, and that both were victims of war. The soldier shares a deep message about the loss of youth, hope, and potential due to war.

4. Why does the dead soldier say, “I am the enemy you killed”?

→ This line reveals the emotional climax: the speaker realizes he has killed someone who was fundamentally like himself—highlighting the tragic irony and shared suffering caused by war.

5. What tone does Wilfred Owen use in the poem?

→ The tone is solemn, sorrowful, and reflective. It shows empathy and a deep criticism of the glorification of war.

6. How does the poem depict the futility of war?

→ The poem shows that even after death, soldiers are haunted by their actions. War brings only destruction and suffering—not glory or progress.

7. What poetic devices does Owen use in the poem?

→ Owen uses imagery, metaphor, irony, enjambment, and assonance to create a haunting and emotional effect.



20 Short and Long Answer Questions with Answers

◆ Short Answer Type (30–50 words)

1. Who is the speaker in the poem “Strange Meeting”?

→ The speaker is a soldier who has died in battle and now finds himself in an underworld-like place, reflecting on the war and meeting another dead soldier he killed.

2. How is the “strange meeting” strange?

→ It is strange because it occurs in the afterlife between two enemies—one of whom killed the other in battle.

3. What message does the dead soldier convey to the speaker?

→ He expresses that both soldiers were victims of war and that war destroys youth, beauty, and truth.

4. What does the poem say about enemy soldiers?

→ It shows that enemy soldiers are not fundamentally different; they share dreams, fears, and suffering.

5. **Explain the line “I am the enemy you killed, my friend.”**
→ This is a powerful moment of irony and sorrow. The enemy reveals himself to be just like the speaker—his friend in humanity.
 6. **Why is the poem anti-war?**
→ It shows war as meaningless, causing unnecessary death and destroying potential.
 7. **What is the significance of the tunnel or underworld in the poem?**
→ The tunnel symbolizes the afterlife or death—a quiet place where the dead reflect on the truths ignored during life.
 8. **What does “the pity of war” mean in the poem?**
→ It means the senseless suffering, pain, and loss caused by war. Owen wants to reveal the truth behind the glorification of war.
 9. **How does Owen describe war in contrast to traditional views?**
→ Instead of bravery and honor, he shows war as tragic, senseless, and dehumanizing.
 10. **What is the role of imagination in the poem?**
→ Imagination allows Owen to create a fictional afterlife scene where truth and regret can be shared freely.
-

◆ **Long Answer Type (100–150 words)**

11. **Discuss the anti-war message in “Strange Meeting.”**
→ “Strange Meeting” condemns the brutality and futility of war. Owen imagines a dialogue between two dead soldiers—enemies in life, united in death. The poem reveals that war does not bring glory but ends dreams, love, and truth. The soldier the speaker killed reveals they are alike and could have been friends. The poem deeply criticizes the romanticized view

of war and expresses “the pity of war.” Owen’s aim is to highlight shared humanity and the senselessness of killing.

12. **Explain the symbolic meaning of the “meeting” in the poem.**

→ The “meeting” symbolizes a moment of truth and reflection that war never allows in life. In death, the barriers of enmity fall away, and the soldiers realize their common pain and loss. It is through this surreal encounter that the speaker—and the reader—see the true cost of war.

13. **What emotions are expressed in the poem?**

→ The poem expresses sorrow, regret, empathy, and deep pity. The tone is somber and reflective, full of mourning for lost youth, talent, and potential. There is no anger—only shared pain.

14. **How is imagery used in “Strange Meeting”?**

→ Owen uses powerful imagery: “hell,” “blood,” “the wild charioting,” and “encumbered sleepers” to evoke the horrors of war and death. The contrast between the silent underworld and the violent battlefield intensifies the message.

15. **Compare “Strange Meeting” with other war poems by Wilfred Owen.**

→ Like “Dulce et Decorum Est,” this poem shows war’s grim reality. However, “Strange Meeting” focuses more on shared humanity, using dialogue rather than action to critique war. Both poems reflect Owen’s own experiences in World War I.