Hughes’ presentation of internal conflict in ‘Bayonet charge’

‘In raw-seamed hot khaki, his sweat heavy,

Stumbling across a field of clods towards a green hedge’

* Stumbling is a powerful verb which implies the solider is disorientated or confused. He is not calm and composed like soldiers are meant to be. Reminiscent of a young child ‘stumbling’ around
* ‘a field of clods’ reminds to reader that the earth is worn out and messy due to all the conflict and shells exploding on the land. It seems he is running along other soldiers’ graves. Also foreshadows the soldiers death
* ‘his sweat heavy’ amplifies how tired he is. He is sweating due to all the work he is doing and lifting heavy things, and his sweat makes this worse.
* His uniform is also heavy
* ‘raw’ means ‘not ready’ and the solider is not ready for war. It also accentuates the soldier’s discomfort. This emphasises he is young

Throughout ‘Bayonet Charge’, Hughes presents internal conflict. In stanza 1, Hughes enforces the soldier is too young to be in conflict. ‘stumbling’ is used to imply the solider is moving like a child. This solider is portrayed to be too young for battle and Hughes makes this clear. The verb also accentuates a sense of confusion, like the solider is panicking and disorientated, overwhelmed by the conflict of war. ‘raw’ is also used to reinforce the soldier is not ready for war.