The Lasting Effects of War

The poem not only covers the brutality of armed combat, but also graphic details regarding the aftermath of war. For example, the alliteration of the word ‘drugged’ suggests that the soldiers are under the influence of drugs, which is a common effect of being under stress. The use of the adjective ‘war-wounded’ describes the condition of soldiers who have been injured in combat. The poet also uses the metaphor of a ‘stunned, sand-eyed’ soldier to represent the psychological trauma experienced by soldiers after witnessing the horrors of war. These figures of speech are effective in creating a vivid picture of the soldiers’ experiences.

The poem also contains many examples of figurative language, including similes, metaphors, and personification. These create a powerful and evocative image of the soldiers’ experiences.

The Lasting Effects of War – The poem deals with the lasting impact of war on those who experience it – in this case the ex-servicemen who took part in the fighting. The speaker in the poem is forced to deal with the horrifying images of what he has seen long after the events themselves, and the guilt of his actions lingers on. These factors contribute to his weakened psychological state, which appears fraught by anxiety and PTS.

Poems for Comparison

Thoughts of the Poet

Remains can be contrasted with these poems in relation to the themes of suffering and the horrors of war.

Exposure. Bone-dust Charge

End of story, except not really.

Then he's carted off in the back of a lorry.

End of story, except not really.

He's bloody-shadows stays on the street, and out on patrol

I'm home on leave. But I blink

And he bursts again through the doors of the bank.

The reader now begins to discuss the lasting effects in the next stanza, and the poem concludes immediately after. The poem ends with the line ‘inexperienced’, which leaves the reader in a state of anticipation.

The poem is a powerful and moving account of the lasting effects of war. The language is both vivid and evocative, and the imagery is striking. The poem ends on a note of hope, suggesting that there is still a chance for recovery.