

جامعة تكريت  
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قسم اللغة الانكليزية



المرحلة: الأولى

**Subject Name:** Intoduction to liteature

**Lecture:** *The Dead* by Rupert Brooke

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## **Ninth lecture**

### **"The Dead" by Rupert Brooke**

#### **Introduction**

Good morning, dear students. Today, we will study a short but powerful poem by Rupert Brooke titled "The Dead". This poem is part of a collection called "1914 and Other Poems", written during World War I. Brooke's poetry reflects themes of patriotism, sacrifice, and the beauty of giving one's life for a greater cause. Let us explore the meaning, themes, and literary devices in this poem.

#### **1 .Background on Rupert Brooke**

Rupert Brooke (1887–1915) was an English poet known for his idealistic war poetry.

He wrote during the early days of World War I, expressing a romanticized view of war and heroism.

Brooke died in 1915, during the war, making his poems a poignant reflection of his time.

#### **2 .Text of the Poem**

Here is "The Dead" by Rupert Brooke:

<Blow out, you bugles, over the rich Dead!

There's none of these so lonely and poor of old,

But, dying, has made us rarer gifts than gold.

These laid the world away; poured out the red

Sweet wine of youth; gave up the years to be  
Of work and joy, and that unhopèd serene,  
That men call age; and those who would have been,  
Their sons, they gave, their immortality.  
<Blow, bugles, blow! They brought us, for our dearth,  
Holiness, lacked so long, and Love, and Pain.  
Honour has come back, as a king, to earth,  
And paid his subjects with a royal wage;  
And Nobleness walks in our ways again;  
And we have come into our heritage.

### 3 .Summary of the Poem

In "The Dead", Brooke honors soldiers who have sacrificed their lives in war. He presents their death as a noble act that brings gifts of honor, holiness, and a renewed sense of values to those who live on. The poem emphasizes the eternal impact of their sacrifice, which goes beyond material wealth to enrich the spiritual and moral fabric of society.

### 4 .Themes in the Poem

#### 1 .Sacrifice and Heroism

Brooke glorifies the soldiers' sacrifices, portraying their deaths as meaningful and noble.

#### 2 .Immortality Through Death

The poem suggests that by dying for a greater cause, the soldiers achieve a kind of immortality.

### 3 .Patriotism

The poem reflects Brooke's love for his country and admiration for those who serve it.

### 4 .Moral Renewal

The soldiers' sacrifices bring about values like honor, nobility, and holiness, which had been lacking in society.

### 5 .Structure and Form

The poem is written in two stanzas of eight lines each, creating a balanced structure.

The rhyme scheme is ABABCD CD, giving the poem a musical, rhythmic quality.

The tone is both solemn and celebratory, reflecting Brooke's admiration for the fallen soldiers.

### 6 .Literary Devices in the Poem

#### 1 .Imagery

Brooke uses vivid imagery to describe the soldiers' sacrifices, such as "poured out the red sweet wine of youth".

#### 2 .Symbolism

The bugles symbolize a call to honor and remembrance.

The red sweet wine of youth represents the vitality and potential the soldiers gave up.

### 3 .Personification

Brooke personifies concepts like Honour and Nobleness, making them active participants in the soldiers' legacy.

### 4 .Contrast

The poem contrasts material wealth ("gifts rarer than gold") with spiritual and moral richness.

### 5 .Repetition

The repeated call to "Blow, bugles, blow!" emphasizes the importance of remembering and honoring the dead.

### 7 .Analysis of Key Lines

"Blow out, you bugles, over the rich Dead"!

The poem opens with a dramatic call to remember the soldiers. By calling them "rich," Brooke highlights the value of their sacrifice.

"These laid the world away; poured out the red sweet wine of youth"

This line describes how the soldiers gave up their lives and their future potential. The metaphor of wine suggests vitality and beauty.

“Honour has come back, as a king, to earth”

The poet imagines that the soldiers’ sacrifice has restored a sense of honor and nobility to the world.

“And we have come into our heritage”

Brooke concludes that the living have inherited values like holiness, love, and nobility because of the soldiers’ sacrifices.

#### 8 .Why is "The Dead" Important?

Reflection of Its Time: The poem captures the early optimism and patriotism of World War I.

Universal Themes: It speaks to the timeless idea of honoring those who sacrifice for a greater cause.

Rich Language: Brooke’s use of imagery and symbolism makes the poem emotionally powerful and memorable.

#### 9 .Discussion Questions

1 .How does Brooke glorify the soldiers’ sacrifices in the poem?

2 .Why does the poet describe the soldiers as “rich”? What makes their sacrifice valuable?

3 .Do you think the poem’s tone is realistic or overly idealistic? Why?

#### 10 .Activity

Write a short paragraph or poem about someone or something you believe deserves honor and remembrance. Use metaphors or vivid imagery to describe their contributions.

Example:

<Their hands, roughened by the soil,

Planted dreams in every seed