

Name: .....

Date:.....

**Autumn by Siegfried Sassoon - read to your partner. Take turns.**



October's bellowing anger breaks and cleaves  
 The bronzed battalions of the stricken wood  
 In whose lament I hear a voice that grieves  
 For battle's fruitless harvest, and the feud  
 Of outraged men. Their lives are like the leaves  
 Scattered in flocks of ruin, tossed and blown  
 Along the westering furnace flaring red.  
 O martyred youth and manhood overthrown,  
 The burden of your wrongs is on my head.



As you read, annotate the text:  
**Wiggly line** = I don't know this word; **circle** = evidence I can use.  
 Write any themes you have found at the end of a line.



**Decode, explore and explain the meaning of new vocabulary: try to discover 3 new words.**

Word:	Meaning:

**Read and retrieve:**

Copy any words from the poem which link war with autumn and harvest time (1 mark)

.....  
.....

**Infer:**

Why do you think the author chose to compare trees in autumn to represent the fallen soldiers? (1 mark) Bonus word to use in your answer: **connection** (1 mark)

.....  
.....  
.....

**Choice:**

Find examples of pathetic fallacy used in the poem. Why did the author do this?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....



**Answer guidance:**

**Autumn by Siegfried Sassoon**

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**Read and retrieve:**

Copy any words from the poem which link war with autumn and harvest time (1 mark)

*bellowing - noise of autumn wind - guns  
(battle's) fruitless harvest*

**Infer:**

Why do you think the author chose to compare trees in autumn to represent the fallen soldiers? (1mark )

*trees being cut down / soldiers being killed  
trees stand like soldiers / trees fall like soldiers / cut down like soldiers in battle  
leaves die / soldiers die  
many leaves fallen on the ground / many soldiers lie dead on the ground*

**Choice:**

Find examples of pathetic fallacy used in the poem. Why did the author do this?

*(pathetic fallacy is a literary term for the attribution of human emotion and conduct to things found in nature that are not human)*

*bellowing anger = wind / guns = uses sounds to create a sense of the power of battle  
westering furnace flaring = sunset / sense of death / endings / guns / fire  
leaves scattered in flocks of ruin = symbolism for many deaths / autumn brings death to  
leaves = gives a powerful image of many dead men scattered everywhere. Gives a sense that we do not think the deaths are important - just another dead leaf. A sense that the lives of men are being wasted / treated as unimportant. There is a strong sense of outrage and anger at the waste / cost in lives.*