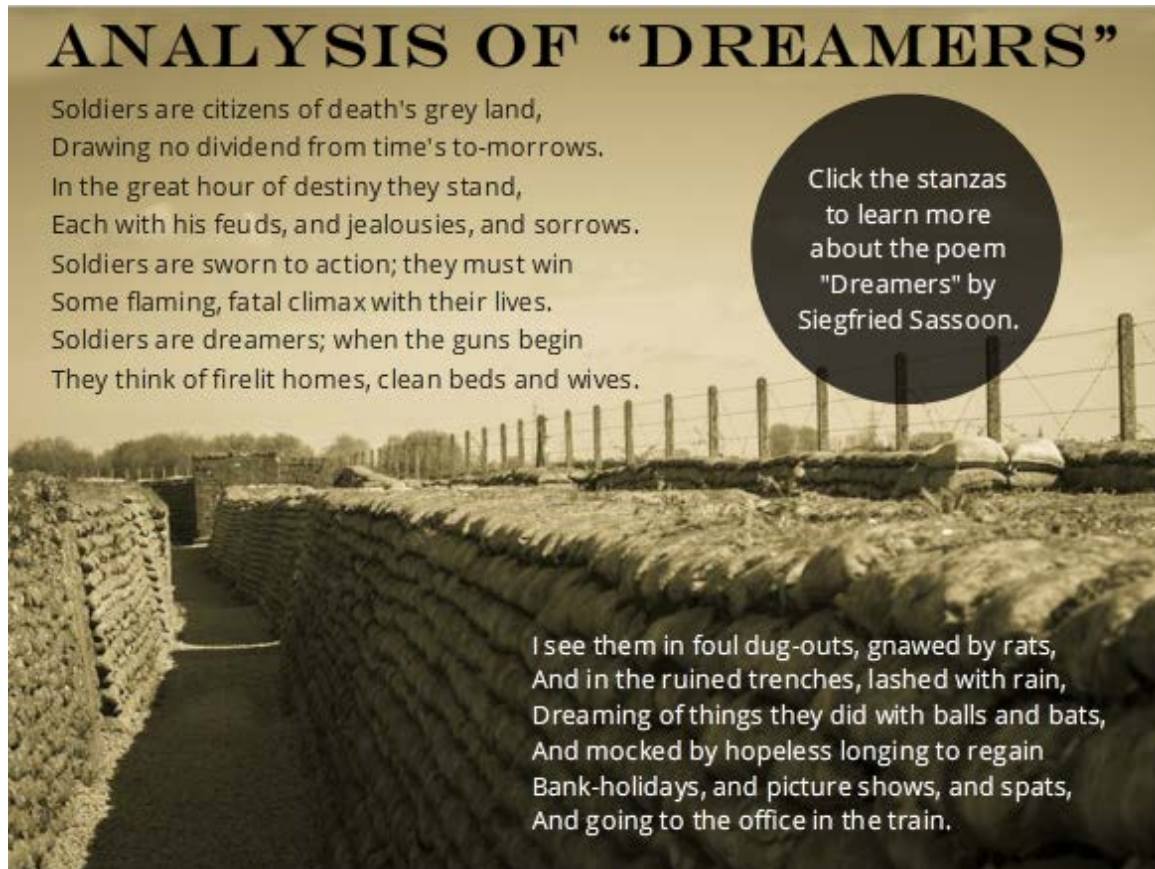


## Module 8: Change and Its Impact

### Topic 2 Content: Analysis of "Dreamers"

#### Introduction



## ANALYSIS OF "DREAMERS"

Soldiers are citizens of death's grey land,  
Drawing no dividend from time's to-morrows.  
In the great hour of destiny they stand,  
Each with his feuds, and jealousies, and sorrows.  
Soldiers are sworn to action; they must win  
Some flaming, fatal climax with their lives.  
Soldiers are dreamers; when the guns begin  
They think of firelit homes, clean beds and wives.

Click the stanzas to learn more about the poem "Dreamers" by Siegfried Sassoon.

I see them in foul dug-outs, gnawed by rats,  
And in the ruined trenches, lashed with rain,  
Dreaming of things they did with balls and bats,  
And mocked by hopeless longing to regain  
Bank-holidays, and picture shows, and spats,  
And going to the office in the train.

Click the stanzas to learn more about the poem "Dreamers" by Siegfried Sassoon.

## Module 8: Change and Its Impact


### Topic 2 Content: Analysis of "Dreamers"

#### First Stanza

## ANALYSIS OF "DREAMERS"

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Soldiers are dreamers; when the guns begin  
They think of firelit homes, clean beds and wives.

Take a look at the first lines of the poem. How do they set the tone of the poem? They seem to say that the fate of soldiers is death, for tomorrow is never guaranteed. This sets a bleak tone regarding the service of soldiers. The speaker goes on to say that when the battle begins, the soldiers think of the things they are missing out on at home, such as cozy houses, comfortable beds, and loving wives.



I see them in foul dug-outs, gnawed by rats,  
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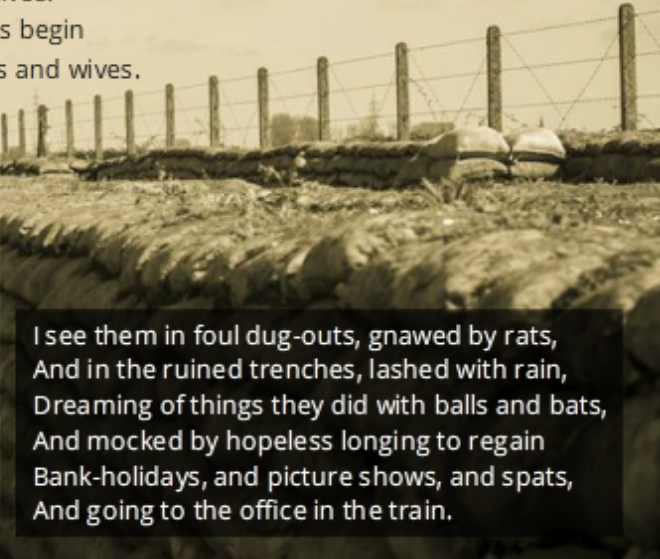
**Module 8: Change and Its Impact**  
**Topic 2 Content: Analysis of "Dreamers"**

**Second Stanza**

## ANALYSIS OF "DREAMERS"

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In the great hour of destiny they stand,  
Each with his feuds, and jealousies, and sorrows.  
Soldiers are sworn to action; they must win  
Some flaming, fatal climax with their lives.  
Soldiers are dreamers; when the guns begin  
They think of firelit homes, clean beds and wives.

At the start of the second stanza, the speaker juxtaposes the dreams of the soldiers with the gruesome image of foul dugouts where soldiers are bitten by rats and endure harsh weather. A first-person narrator is introduced, adding a personal and realistic touch for readers who have no experience fighting in a war.



I see them in foul dug-outs, gnawed by rats,  
And in the ruined trenches, lashed with rain,  
Dreaming of things they did with balls and bats,  
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