

Comparing images in poems

The images in the table below are all from the following poems: “In Flanders Fields” by John McCrae, “The Falling Leaves” by Margaret Postgate Cole, “Recruiting” by E A Mackintosh, “Joining the Colours” by Katherine Tynan Hinkson and “Perhaps” by Vera Brittain.

1. Sort out the images as you think best: this might be by the similarities between the images; by similar words; by references to the soldiers; or some other category that you decide upon.
2. What does the sorting show you about these poems?
3. If you know the poems, are there any other similarities or differences you can think of between any of these poems?
4. If you haven't read these poems before what do you think the opinions of the poets might be towards the war? What subjects do you think they have focused on for their poems?

Girls with feathers	They fell
Vulgar songs	Gallant multitude
Morning dew	Withering lay
Wicked German foe	Flemish Clay
Gallant sacrifice	Crosses, row on row
Underneath the open sky	Larks, still bravely singing
Come and die	Felt dawn
Marching all in step so gay	Saw sunset glow
Smooth-cheeked and golden	Loved and were loved
To see them row on row	In Flanders Fields
Glory and the grave	Quarrel with the foe
Golden boys	Though poppies grow
Poor girls they kissed	Sun will shine again
Brown leaves	Still the skies are blue
Whistling to the sky	Golden meadows
Autumn	Christmas songs
I shall not shrink in pain	My heart