

Read the following poem by Jessie Pope, entitled 'The Call'. In your book answer this question:

**Jessie Pope wrote many pro-war poems during World War 1. How is the following poem intended to make young men feel enthusiastic about joining up? Think about the following:**

**Her use of questions; the images; personal address to the reader; rhyme scheme of the poem; the rhythm and line length.**

In the poem 'The Call' Jessie Pope uses many techniques to make the reader feel enthusiastic about joining up. Even the title encourages the reader to feel that this is important through the use of 'the', as if there could be no other call.

Pope uses questions throughout the poem to draw the reader into the enthusiasm, make it impossible to disagree with her suggestions and to build up a picture of heroism and bravery. "Who's going out to win? / And who wants to save his skin – " shows the use of contrasting pairs in which an act of bravery is juxtaposed with an act of selfishness. Pope intends the reader to feel compelled by the first question and ashamed by the second.

Pope's use of 'my laddie' illustrates her intended friendship with the reader, to make young men feel at ease and part of a 'gang' of brave heroes. This is furthered by her reference to the 'khaki suit' which might bring to mind the smart uniform the young soldiers would wear and which would make them attractive to women.

At the end of the poem Pope refers to the victory march as, "that procession comes / Banners and rolling drums". The lines emphasise the wonderful reception the young men will get when they return and the huge celebrations which will take place. The use of the plural and the two things mentioned reflect how many people will be participating and what a wonderful vision of noise and colour it will be and the young men will not want to be left out. The scene is made more vivid because it is contrasted with the solitary isolated figure, "who'll stand and bite his thumbs" with shame. 'His' highlights that this is an other, not the reader.

Overall Pope's poem is an effective recruitment device which uses a number of speech making techniques to encourage young men to join up in World War 1.

**What do you think is good about the above answer? What could be improved? What has the writer omitted (left out) of their answer?**