

## A selection of tasks

**Tasks to complete on** *Birdsong*, **some of Wilfred Owen's poetry and** *Journey's End*.

1. Compare and contrast the openings to the first and second sections of Sebastian Faulks's novel *Birdsong*
2. Write a critical analysis of either the *Birdsong* extract in which Stephen and Gray visit Colonel Barclay or Weir's home leave. Comment on the language, form, imagery, opinions of the various characters and what you think the author's view of the war is.
3. Write notes in preparation for a critical analysis on either the extract from *Birdsong* when Jack finds Stephen badly injured or when Brennan goes with the working party and brings back his brother.
4. Explore the poetry of Jessie Pope and Wilfred Owen's early poems, commenting on its message, language, structure and form
5. Compare 'Dulce et Decorum Est' with one other piece of text of your choosing.
6. Annotate both 'Mental Cases' and 'Night Attack' closely, ready to discuss in the lesson.
7. Write a critical analysis of the opening of *Journey's End* (up to the entrance of Stanhope). Comment on the language, form, imagery, opinions of the various characters and what you think the author's view of the war is.
8. How does R C Sherriff convey humour in Act One of *Journey's End*?
9. Explore the character of Stanhope in Act One of *Journey's End*, commenting on Sherriff's presentation of him and the way in which he has obviously changed through the war.
10. How does R C Sherriff convey the horror of the war in the first scene of Act Two of *Journey's End*?
11. Explore the purpose of the character of Osborne in *Journey's End*.
12. Compare the presentation of the attack in 'Comrades: An Episode' and Act Three, Scene One of *Journey's End*. Consider in particular Mister Gates's thoughts whilst lying in No-Man's Land and Osbourne's behaviour before the raid. Also explore the other men's conversations in both pieces.
13. Explore the presentation of soldiers in the play *Journey's End*. In your answer consider:
  - Language, form and structure
  - The writer's thoughts and feelings about war
  - The influence of the time of composition
14. Compare the opening of Act Three Scene One when the Colonel visits Stanhope in *Journey's End* to the visit by Stephen and Gray to Colonel Barclay in *Birdsong*.