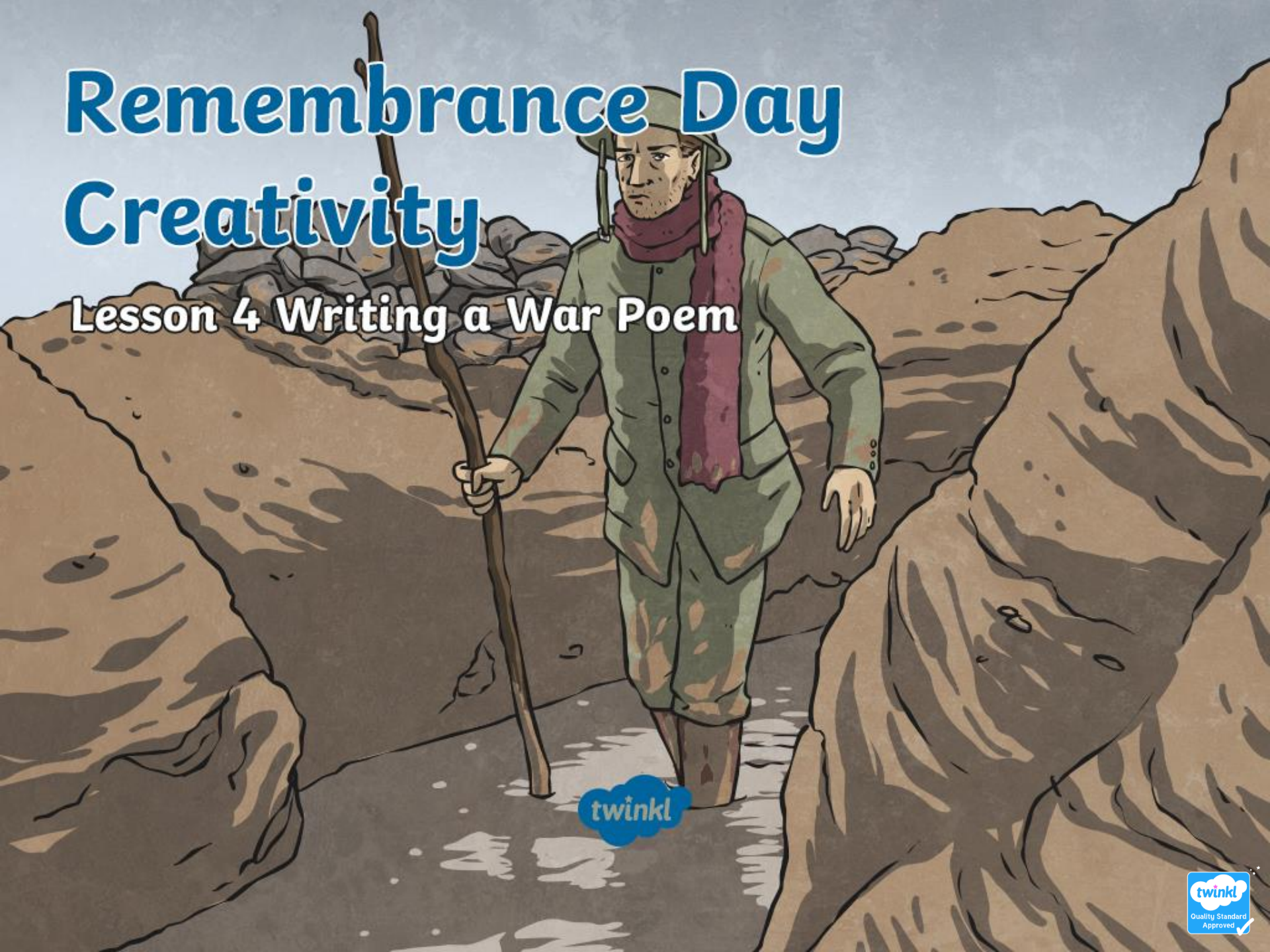


Remembrance Day Creativity

Lesson 4 Writing a War Poem



How to Begin

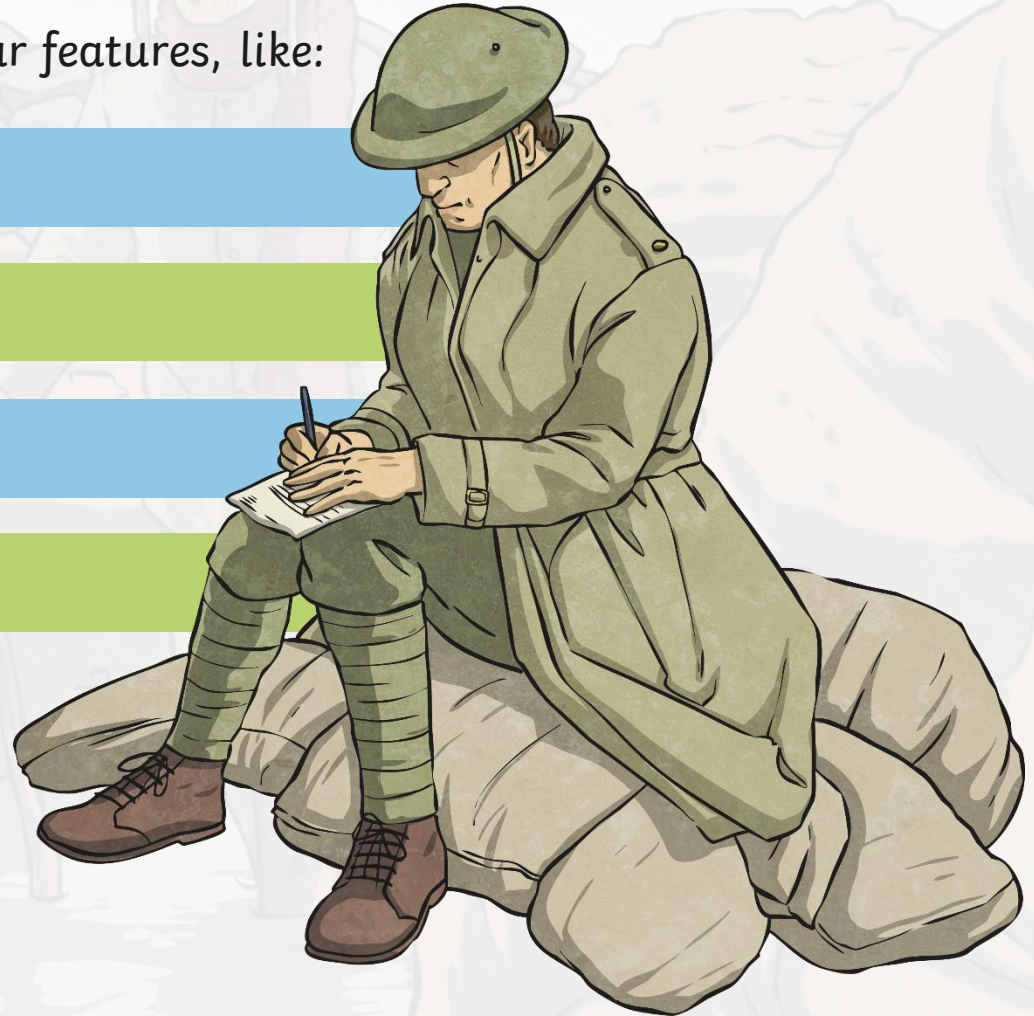
War poems often have similar features, like:

Effective words

Aural and visual language

Emotive language

Attention to detail



Effective Words

You want your poem to depict what war would be like.

Think about some effective words like:

sinking mud

rotten boots

scars

unblinking eyes

heavy legs

lifeless

trudge

Think about the image you are creating with these words.



Aural and Visual Language

You want your poem to depict what war would be like.

Think about some effective words like:

- **Onomatopoeia** – words that sound like the sound they make such as ‘bang’ or ‘pop’. These words reflect the sound of the battle.
- **Alliteration** – repetition of a consonant sound which would indicate the sound of the bombs dropping or guns.
- **Simile** – describing something as like or as something else (to describe how the soldiers looked/felt/were injured).
- **Personification** – giving objects or things human qualities (to make the weapons/war seem more frightening).
- **Rhyme** – sound patterning and rhythm (to reflect the sound of the war).

Think about the image you’re creating with these words.

Emotive Language

Begin your poem with a dramatic opening line, like:

“The soldiers **marched**, trudging like **burdened** men,
bombs crashed and ...”

Try changing the words in bold to see if it makes a difference – you may want to try a number of combinations to see which is most effective.

Or you may need to change a word altogether. Use a thesaurus if necessary. You may find more interesting word choices.



Attention to Detail

Often poets talk generally about the horrors of war, but then zoom in on a specific detail.

For example:

“And the wild chattering of
his broken teeth.”

OR

“Eyeballs, huge-bulged
like squids.”

Adding detail like this adds a powerful effect.



Look at 'The Sentry' by Wilfred Owen



Discuss the different effects used and how they enhance the poem.

Highlight areas of repetition, alliteration and attention to detail in different colours.

