

**“Dulce et Decorum Est” Questions**

1. Discuss the speaker’s description of the soldiers in the first stanza. How do poetic devices add more meaning to this description?
2. Why is a soldier described as “stumbling” (11) and “flound’ring?” (12)
3. Who is the speaker in the poem? What is he describing in stanza three? What does this tell us about the speaker’s feelings about the event he witnessed and the effect of war on soldiers’ lives?
4. Comment on the use of the word, “flung” (18) in stanza four. What does it suggest about the soldiers’ attitude towards their gassed comrades? Why do you think they developed this attitude?
5. Who is the “you” to whom the speaker refers? What words in the text support your conclusion?
6. The final two lines of the poem contain a quotation from Ode 3.2 by Roman poet Horace that the speaker calls “the old Lie.” (27) The Latin phrase: “Dulce et decorum est / pro patria mori” (27-28) translates to English as: “it is sweet and fitting to die for one’s country.” How does the meaning of this phrase contribute to the theme of this poem?