

# Starter for Ten

Give me three

<b>Adjectives to describe Fred.</b>	
<b>Similes associated with Scrooge.</b>	
<b>Nature poems.</b>	
<b>Scenes from Romeo and Juliet where the Nurse features.</b>	
<b>Poetic techniques.</b>	

# Kamikaze:

## What is the poem about?

The poem is about a Japanese kamikaze pilot whose life should have ended when he completed his suicide mission.

However, as he is preparing for his mission, something makes the pilot turn back and neglect his duty.

The pilot returns home and is shunned for the rest of his life by his friends, family and neighbours for dishonouring himself.



# Kamikaze:

## Let's read the poem!

Her father embarked at sunrise  
with a flask of water, a samurai sword  
in the cockpit, a shaven head  
full of powerful incantations  
and enough fuel for a one-way  
journey into history

but half way there, she thought,  
recounting it later to her children,  
he must have looked far down  
at the little fishing boats  
strung out like bunting  
on a green-blue translucent sea

and beneath them, arcing in swathes  
like a huge flag waved first one way  
then the other in a figure of eight,  
the dark shoals of fishes  
flashing silver as their bellies  
swivelled towards the sun



and remembered how he  
and his brothers waiting on the shore  
built cairns of pearl-grey pebbles  
to see whose withstood longest  
the turbulent inrush of breakers  
bringing their father's boat safe

*– yes, grandfather's boat – safe  
to the shore, salt-sodden, awash  
with cloud-marked mackerel,  
black crabs, feathery prawns,  
the loose silver of whitebait and once  
a tuna, the dark prince, muscular, dangerous.*

*And though he came back  
my mother never spoke again  
in his presence, nor did she meet his eyes  
and the neighbours too, they treated him  
as though he no longer existed,  
only we children still chattered and laughed*

*till gradually we too learned  
to be silent, to live as though  
he had never returned, that this  
was no longer the father we loved.  
And sometimes, she said, he must have wondered  
which had been the better way to die.*

# Kamikaze:

## **Meaning/main messages of the poem:**

- Kamikaze presents ideas of Japanese national identity
- The poem reflects the immense social pressure brought to bear on the pilots to carry out kamikaze missions as part of Japan's war effort during World War Two.
- The internal conflict of choosing patriotism and honour over human life.
- The power of nature over man.

# Kamikaze:

Complete the cloze activity in your booklet:



# Kamikaze:

At the beginning of the poem, the pilot shows his intentions to complete his suicide mission by having only enough fuel for a \_\_\_\_\_ journey, keeping a \_\_\_\_\_ sword and \_\_\_\_\_ his head.

Years later, the pilot's daughter recounts the story to her \_\_\_\_\_ and wonders what would have made him decide to turn back. The daughter doesn't know the real reason because his family never \_\_\_\_\_ to him again. She supposes that he looked \_\_\_\_\_ from the plane and became overwhelmed by the beauty and the \_\_\_\_\_ of nature. This may have led him to reminisce on his own childhood memories such as playing on the \_\_\_\_\_ with his brothers and joining his father on his \_\_\_\_\_. The daughter imagines that in these moments, he must have decided that life was worth living and turned his back on his \_\_\_\_\_ as a result.

The daughter explains that the pilot was \_\_\_\_\_ by his family and neighbours and reflects on whether her father \_\_\_\_\_ his decision to turn back, questioning whether it may have been less painful for him to die on his suicide mission than \_\_\_\_\_ home to be disowned by your loved ones.

Return  
Fishing boat  
Mission  
Down  
Regretted  
One way  
Shunned  
Power  
Children  
Samurai  
Beach  
Spoke

# Kamikaze:



At the beginning of the poem, the pilot shows his intentions to complete his suicide mission by having only enough fuel for a **one-way** journey, keeping a **samurai** sword and **shaving** his head.

Years later, the pilot's daughter recounts the story to her **children** and wonders what would have made him decide to turn back. The daughter doesn't know the real reason because his family never **spoke** to him again. She supposes that he looked **down** from the plane and became overwhelmed by the beauty and the **power** of nature. This may have led him to reminisce on his own childhood memories such as playing on the **beach** with his brothers and joining his father on his **fishing boat**. The daughter imagines that in these moments, he must have decided that life was worth living and turned his back on his **mission** as a result. The daughter explains that the pilot was **shunned** by his family and neighbours and reflects on whether her father **regretted** his decision to turn back, questioning whether it may have been less painful for him to die on his suicide mission than **return** home to be disowned by your loved ones.

Return  
Shaving  
Fishing boat  
Mission  
Down  
Regretted  
One-way  
Shunned  
Power  
Children  
Samurai  
Beach  
Spoke

# Kamikaze: Golden Quotations

Kamikaze



Beatrice Garland

**Imagery:** Japan was also known as the land of the rising sun, linking the character to his culture and duty.

'Her father embarked at sunrise  
with a flask of water, a samurai  
sword... a shaven head...'

The **list of three** creates intimacy with pilot – see him as human.

The **sibilant** 'Samurai sword' emphasises Japan's warrior symbol.





# Kamikaze: Golden Quotations

Kamikaze



Beatrice Garland

**Modal verb 'must'** – we have to imagine his feelings.

'..he must have wondered which  
had been the better way to  
die...'

**Comparative adjective 'better'** highlights conflict, emphasises that he dies in the eyes of his family.



# Kamikaze: Structure

Enjambment, italics for speech – narrative

Note how the lines run on all the way to the fifth stanza –  
more personal

Italics show shifts in perspective.

Line lengths go up and down – like waves.



# Kamikaze: plenary/exit ticket.

**Imagine this is your exam question:**

**'Compare how the power of memory is presented in 'Kamikaze' and one other poem.'**



- 1) Decide which poem you would compare with.**
- 2) Write down one point of comparison between the poems.**