Violence

A hail of bullets
Enveloped in darkness
Machine guns and rifles broke the silence of the night

A bullet flattened
His heart beat faster
The eyes of a man who is used to looking at death

Beside him lay his rifle
He must kill that enemy
Machine guns and rifles broke the silence of the night

A shot rang out
His enemy had been hit
He was reeling over the parapet in his death agony

He uttered a cry of joy
The blood was oozing
Machine guns and rifles broke the silence of the night

I chose to write about The Sniper

War Knows No Bounds

Republican... the eyes of a man who is used to looking at death

>There were enemies watching
>His enemy was undercover
>He must kill the enemy

Free Stater... took a deep breath through his nostrils and fired

>an old woman
>a tattered shawl
>An informer

Republican... uttered a cry of joy

>The woman darted
>The woman whirled round and fell
>The woman's corpse lay still in the gutter

Free Stater... broke the silence of the night

>cursing the war
>cursing himself
>cursing everybody

Republican ... crumpled up and fell forward

>The lust of battle died in him
>He became bitten by remorse
>He revolted from the sight

Free Stater...wondered did he know him

>the dead enemy
>the shattered mass
>his brother's face

Republicans and Free Staters ...were waging civil war

I chose to write about "The War Knows No Bounds" in The Sniper

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Commented [BH8]: This theme is more complicated and specific than "violence."

Commented [BH9]: Notice how the poem is arranged in a pattern: 1 long line, space, 3 short lines, space, 1 long line, space, 3 short lines, space... etc. This enhances rhythm.

Commented [BH10]: Each of the longer lines are about either a Republican or a Free Stater. These are the two sides fighting against each other in the Irish Civil War. The reason I chose to take turns with their names is because I am trying to show that they are just men, and either name could be placed in each line. This is an element of STYLE.

Commented [BH11]: This shows my theme (War Knows No Bounds) because it describes how men are willing to shoot anyone, even old women.

Commented [BH12]: ...and that not only are they willing, but they are happy to do it.

Commented [BH13]: This stanza shows my theme (War Knows No Bounds) because it describes how men are willing to commit an act that they know and feel is wrong for the sake of war.

Commented [BH14]: This stanza shows my theme (War Knows No Bounds) because it shows that war turns brothers against one another, and turns them into enemies.

Commented [BH15]: This last line sums up the theme, since a civil war is a war against one's own countrymen or brothers. It also sums up the pattern of my poem by bringing the "Republicans" and "Free Staters" together.