

## 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

**Commented [BH1]:** The title should reflect the story's theme

**Commented [BH2]:** The lines in each stanza (the "paragraphs" within a poem are called stanzas) is made up of word-for-word quotes taken from the story! Each line in the poem (which are taken from the story) should have something to do with the story's theme (the title of your poem).

**Commented [BH3]:** Notice how each stanza LOOKS the same. This is an element of STYLE. Each stanza has two short lines, followed by a long line.

**Commented [BH4]:** This line is repeated in every second stanza. This repetition shows that this line is very important to showing the theme.

**Commented [BH5]:** Here is a breakdown of HOW some of the lines I chose show the theme of "violence":

**Commented [BH6R5]:** "A shot rang out" = gun violence  
"His enemy had been hit" = murder  
"...death agony" = he is dying a violent death

**Commented [BH7R5]:** "...cry of joy" = he enjoys the violence  
"The blood was oozing" = gory violence  
"Machine guns... broke silence..." = the firing of guns broke the peacefulness of human life

I chose to write about The Sniper

## War Knows No Bounds

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

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]

**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.

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

an old woman  
a tattered shawl  
An informer]

**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.

[Republican... uttered a cry of joy]

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

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

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

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]

**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.

Free Stater... wondered did he know him

the dead enemy  
the shattered mass  
his brother's face

**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.

[Republicans and Free Staters ... were waging civil war]

**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.

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