Dear Tommy,

Can I interrupt you long enough to tell you a story?

When I was a boy, I used to visit my Granddad in London and sometimes, if my dad was busy, I’d catch the train back home. When I did, Granddad would wait with me on platform 1 – right by you, where you still stand today.

Unlike you, my Granddad never fought in the Great War but he did try to. Him and three mates went along to sign up the day war broke out. His friends were taken on but Granddad wasn’t allowed, because he was flat footed.

That’s why he made it to old age.  That’s why I’m alive now. His two friends never came home.

“Just call me lucky,” he said. “They’d have had me soon enough a few years later, but by that time I’d realised what the bastards were up to.”

He tapped his stick against his leg and grinned down at me, then looked up to you, standing there so grave, reading your letter.

“I bet he wishes he had flat feet as well, eh?” he said.

Then the train came, and we said goodbye till next time.

I don’t believe we get more than one life, which is a pity. But if we do, I wish you and all your fallen comrades flat feet in the next one.

Best, Melvin Burgess.

This a letter written by Melvin Brugerss ( writer) to the unknow soldier. The themes of this letter are:

1. Patriotism
2. Past and present
3. Reconsideration
4. Misfortune and Luck

The first theme (Patriotism) can be found “Him and three mates went along to sign up the day war broke out” and “but by that time I’d realised what the bastards were up to.” because he went to signing up to war when it broke up, so it is highlighted his desire to participate immediately to the war. Then he called bastards his friends because he was sad and disappointed to seeing them to realized his desire (to go to war). “Bastards” isn’t an insult to them but it is a word that shows his disappointing.

“That’s why he made it to old age.  That’s why I’m alive now” and “Just call me lucky,” “He tapped his stick against his leg and grinned down at me” is his reconsideration. “That’s why he made it to old age” and “grinned”, he suggests his happiness about his misfortune(flat foot), he says that if he were able to go to the war, he wouldn’t come home. “Old age” is the symbol of his life. “grinned” is the reconsideration, the intelligent reader can understand that he laughs about the dumb idea to go to war.

“I bet he wishes he had flat feet as well, eh?”, he says that if the unknown soldier ( all soldier that died) had the idea what is really the war, none should had gone. So the intelligent reader can see that the soldiers of the WW1 hadn’t any really idea about the war, but they were encouraged by fake ideas.

“I don’t believe we get more than one life, which is a pity. But if we do, I wish you and all your fallen comrades flat feet in the next one.” Is a complex sentence. He says that if there is another life(but he don’t believe) he wish that all the soldiers will not go to the war. If all “fallen comrades” have had flat foot, the war wouldn’t exist.

The use of language of this letter is simple and there isn’t any complicated word