

Project:

A LETTER TO THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

THE LETTER

How strange life is. One moment you're alive – your heart is breathing, your lungs are breathing, your hair is growing. Then a moment later, you're gone. Your body is an empty shell without a soul.

If you're lucky, your soul leaves your body when your body is too old and too weak to hold on to it. If you aren't so lucky, your body is simply too weak.

You weren't lucky at all. Your soul was ripped from your body at far too young an age. You had years ahead of you, but they were all stolen from you.

And that's just it, isn't it? Nobody gets what was stolen from you. Had they stolen your money, your weapon, anything at all, they would have gained something. But what is there to gain from stealing another's life? You may take another man's years, but you cannot keep them. They will slip through your fingers like a first of sand, and will leave you with nothing but dirty hands.

Your years were stolen from you, but you are still remembered. People may not know your name, people may not know how you looked, but we remember you.

I pray it will enough.

Hanne Hagle
student, 16

ANALYSIS

This letter is written by a student called Hanne Hagle; she is from Sweden and she is 16 years old. The letter has a narrative form: it is formed by six sequences.

The first three sequences tell about the brutality of the war using comparisons with life, indeed this letter condemns war.

Also the fourth sequence tells about the brutality of the war, but this sequence focuses more on the uselessness of revenge.

The fourth and fifth sequence talking about the importance of remembrance.

I choose this letter because Hanne is a teenager like me and because she wrote what I would write to Unknown Soldier.

This letter condemns war. She says that the war steals people's lives unnecessarily.

Just in the first line she underlines the brutality of the war with the use of the phrase “How strange life is”. In the following lines Hanne tells what life is: “the heart beats, the lungs breathe and the hair grow”; but at any moment the life ends, she underlines a stop with the use of the expression “you're gone”.

The reader feels a hollow sound, a sadness and death situation.

She describes the deceased with this phrase: “your body is an empty shell without a soul”.

With this she means that a body without feelings is an empty body.

In the second sequence she tells that anyone sooner or later will die, but the different is that some are dying of old age and others, unfortunately, for other conditions.

In my opinion she tells this to emphasize once again the causes of war.

Henne uses a melancholy tone and anger towards those who unjustly takes the life of people.

In the thirty sequence she tells about the injustice of the war: Hanne uses the verb “was ripped” and “stolen” to underline that the death is something that comes suddenly. The death doesn't look the person's age or identity; it is equal for all and that's what makes the soldiers are all equal in battle. Once again, in the fourth sequence, Hanne underlines the uselessness and the brutality; the death gets nothing from someone's death.

In this sequence Hanne asks some questions to the Unknown Soldier: “And that's just it, isn't it?”, “But what is there to gain from stealing another's life?”

She underlines that no to take revenge because you just get your hands dirt.

In the fifth sequence Hanne continues to talk about the death of the receiver of the letter.

With the use of the expression “but you are still wants remembered” she wants underline once again the importance of memory and the continuity in time of this ritual.

With the repeat of the expression “people may not know” the writer tells the continuity of remember the unknown soldier although they don't know the origins and identity..

Throughout the letter Hanne never thanked the unknown soldier for having sacrificed his life, but remember him for the man he was; this is underlines in the last sequence with the phrase “I pray it will enough”. In my opinion she uses this expression to say that the only memory isn't enough big of what it was he alive.

Throughout the letter is focused on the brutality of the war and the causes that it brings. Hanne often underlines the importance of remembrance; also in my opinion is very important; for this reason I chose this letter.