Poetry Practice

Speaker and Point of View

*As with all the school closure work, this is optional, won’t affect your grade, and does not have to be made up. It will help prepare you for the AP test.*

**If you want feedback, please copy and paste the questions into your own document, answer them, and submit this to turnitin.com by April 3rd.**

You’ve already studied this poem with two others on the subject of war. This one is worth a re-examination based on speaker and PoV. It is a famous and memorable poem, yet only five lines. Many of the author’s choices resulted in a successful poem, including choices about the speaker and POV.

1. “The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner” is much shorter than Owen’s poem (Dulce Et Decorum Est). Is it more or less effective? Why?

2..Is its point of view, as evidenced through personal pronouns, more or less complex than Owen’s poem? Does it change in the course of the poem’s five lines?

3.In addition to personal pronouns, this poem also contains the pronoun “its” twice. What does this pronoun suggest about the two nouns to which it refers?

4.What does the speaker’s word choice reveal about his views about himself and his position in the world? Metaphor is key here as well.

5.In the poem’s last line, to whom does the pronoun “they” refer? Why do you think the poet used a pronoun here instead of a noun to refer to this group of people?

6.Why do you think that Jarrell made the choice he did regarding point of view in this poem? Do you think he made the right choice? Why?