

Questions on Disabled by Wilfred Owen:

1. Like Owen's "Dulce et Decorum Est," "Disabled" explores the conflict between the idealistic vision of war and its reality, but in this case Owen does so by focusing on war's aftermath and effects rather than on the actual experience of warfare. How, exactly, does this poem describe the idealistic vision of war, especially through its depiction in the fourth and fifth stanzas of this soldier's reasons for joining the army?
2. What's the significance of the memories of football matches? To what extent is football a metaphor for war in the poem? To what extent is it not a metaphor for war?
3. What does the poem suggest about what else the soldier has lost in losing his legs, particularly through its emphasis on his encounters with women before and after his injury? What do you make of the speaker's comment that the soldier "threw away his knees" (line 10)?
4. How does the vision of war, of male roles, and of male heroism in "Disabled" compare to that in "Dulce et Decorum Est"?