

Pleased to see you attempt the tougher question!

### Question 2

I shall be comparing individual experiences in the poems *Out of the Blue* and *Poppies*.

*Out of the Blue* is a poem written by Simon Armitage about the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Centre in 2001. The poem depicts a man trapped in the North tower after it was struck by a plane. The poem is based on some footage of the Twin Towers shortly after they were attacked. The perspective of the man is shown in the quote "You have picked me out. Through a distant shot of a building burning," which tells us (the reader, and the man holding the camera) that he sees us from the burning tower. The emotions in the poem are of desperation and resignation as seen in the quotes "In fact I am waving, waving. Small in the clouds but waving, waving." and "My arm is numb and my nerves are sagging." In these quotes Armitage is explaining the initial shock of the man trapped in the building in the aftermath of the strike and towards the end Armitage explains the trapped man's resignation to his inevitable death by him tiring of waving his arm. In contrast, *Poppies* is a poem written by Jane Weir about a woman remembering her son who went to fight in the Great War. *Poppies* is a very morose poem as the woman remembers sending her son off to war. This is depicted in the quote "I was brave, as I walked with you, to the front door." Here, Weir is describing when the son was leaving the house to go to war and that the mother was holding it together whilst he left.

clear summary of both poems

*Out of the Blue* has a very clear structure of seven quatrains however there is no rhyming scheme in the poem but rhyme is heavily present. An interpretation of this structure is that the regularity of the stanzas is powerful to the reader as it repeats thus reminding the reader constantly of the protagonist's situation. Also, Armitage uses a lot of repetition, this can be seen in the quotes "In fact I am waving, waving," and "The depth is appalling. Appalling." This helps support the effect of having a regular pattern, and also the repetition shows that the protagonist in the tower is resorting to repeating desperate actions as he tries to gain attention. *Poppies* has no clear structure with stanzas of differing length without a rhyming scheme. In contrast to *Out of the Blue*, *Poppies*' structure can be interpreted as the mother's emotions erratically escaping as she remembers her son. Likewise, *Poppies* features enjambment, as shown in the quote "I rounded up as many cat hairs/as I could," with 'I could' starting the following line. The use of enjambment shows the protagonist's scattered thoughts. In this case the mother's thoughts are scattered as she remembers letting her son go to war, whereas in *Out of the Blue* the man in the tower's thoughts are scattered because of the shock of being in a building hit by a plane.

great focus on individual experience

great point

relevant part

use / to show end of line

In the poem *Out of the Blue*, the language used is very repetitive, with lots of present continuous verbs used. This can be seen in the quote "Are your eyes believing, believing." The use of the word believing and the rhetorical question suggests that the man is asking if you can actually believe that this terrible attack has happened. The connotations of the word 'believing' are religious. Many people, especially those who were trapped and the families of those who were trapped may have been looking to religious guidance and divine

great focus on language and religion