Who’s for the game, the biggest that’s played,
The red crashing game of a fight?
Who’ll grip and tackle the job unafraid?
And who thinks he’d rather sit tight?

Who’ll toe the line for the signal to ‘Go’!
Who’ll give his country a hand?
Who wants a turn to himself in the show?
And who wants a seat in the stand?

Who knows it won’t be a picnic – not much –
Yet eagerly shoulders a gun?
Who would much rather come back with a crutch
Than lie low and be out of the fun?

Come along lads – but you’ll come on all right –
For there’s only one course to pursue,
Your country is up to her neck in a fight,
And she’s looking and calling for you.

1. Who is the speaker talking to?
2. What is ‘the game’?
3. Where else would you hear the words ‘grip’ and ‘tackle’?
4. What kind of question is this? Why is the speaker asking this question?

1. What two things are suggested by this phrase?
2. How is the reader expected to feel here?
3. What is ‘the show’?
4. What is the difference between ‘a turn to himself’ and ‘a seat in the stand’?

1. What has the poet compared war with? Why?
2. How has the poet used repetition to show how she feels?
3. How is this line similar to the last lines of the previous stanzas?

1. What has the poet made ‘your country’ sound like? Why?
2. What is the poet trying to make the reader think about?
The poet uses metaphors to compare one thing with another. Match the images with the relevant line from the poem. You should match one image to each stanza.

More thoughts

- Having read the poem, what do you think is the purpose of the poem?
- How does the poet use language to persuade?
- How does the poem make you feel?