

of the poem by doing so. The second and fifth lines use positive language, 'live' and 'happy' highlighting the attitude of the narrator towards life, that it is a positive thing. The third and fourth lines explore the semantic field of time within the poem, 'wake us' as if waking from a long time spent sleeping, also 'time and time over' makes direct reference to time its self, using repetition to express how constant time is.

The values and attitudes of the narrator and the poet, presumably both Larkin in this case, are obvious from the choice of lexis in both stanzas. The positive language in the first stanza when talking about life and the passing of time during the days where we live shows a favourable attitude to life. However the negative imagery of the battle field scene that is described is to be expected as death is not a positive thing, the change from the first to the second stanza changes the tone of the poem as well as making the reader think of the harsh realities of life, that their days are always limited. Having the first stanza positive makes the impact of the death in the second stanza all the more chilling and real to the reader. The poem explores something that is relevant to everyone but as is typical of Larkin it is done so in a way that is not commonly thought of.

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