

"Suicide in the Trenches" is a powerful poem that exposes the devastating effect of war on young soldiers and challenges the heroic image associated with warfare. In both poems, Sassoon utilizes vivid imagery and blunt language to confront the reader with the harsh realities of war, exposing the damaging effects on individuals and society. In Siegfried Sassoon's war poems, such as "Suicide in the Trenches" and "Does it Matter?", he effectively debunks the idealistic and romantic outlook on war by presenting a stark and brutal reality that contrasts sharply with the glorification of war often depicted in traditional literature. The title itself suggests a contradiction between the nobility often attributed to sacrificing oneself for a cause and the despair and hopelessness of suicide. The poem begins by painting a vivid contrast between the young boy in the trenches and the way he is perceived by those back home. The image of the boy being admired for "his suit of wise" and "smart lad" focuses on his appearance and the romanticized perception of war. The shocking contrast between the glorified perception and the tragic outcome forcefully highlights the harsh and dehumanizing nature of war.