

Achieved

NZQA Intended for teacher use only

In the poem 'who's for the game?' There are many language features used to persuade people to go and fight in the war. Some of these language features are euphemism which is used to make bad things sound better than they really are, repetition which is when you repeat a word or phrase to show that it is important in the text and rhetorical questions which are there to make people think about an idea.

One of the main features of the language propaganda used here is euphemism. An example of this is 'Who'll grip and tackle the job unafraid?' This encourages the reader to think about how they could look tough for going to war and being a hero for their country and helps us understand the context of the early period of the First World War because they are making war sound a lot better than it actually is. Techniques like this are typical of early First World War poetry because they are trying to encourage people to go to war because they need as many people to go as possible so they are trying to make it sound way better than it really is because they knew it was going to be horrible. Another quotation that builds on this idea is 'Who's for the game, the biggest that's played'. This line is used to make the reader think that it is just going to be a fun game even though it was actually going to be a horrible big war where they could easily get killed. From this we can see that euphemism is very important in this poem because they are making war sound way better than it actually is because if they knew what it was actually going to be like no one would want to go because they would know that there is a big chance that they would die.

Another language feature used here is repetition. Repetition is Repeating a word or phrase to show that it is an important part. An example of this is 'Your country is up to her neck in a fight' The words 'your country' are used a lot in the poem. This encourages the reader to feel like they have to go and fight because they need to protect it and the people who live there including their own families and themselves. The word 'her' is also used a lot in the poem. It is used to make the reader think about how the women can't go to war and fight so they have to. 'Her' is also used to make the reader think about how they have to protect the women because they can't do anything to stop it and only the men can. Another reason it is used is because the men can impress the women by going and if they stay behind they will be thought of as soft because they aren't going. From this we can see that repetition is a key part in this poem because they said the main words multiple times to make the reader mainly think about them and make them want to go to war.

Another language feature in this poem is rhetorical questions. Rhetorical questions are questions in a text that aren't there to be answered but they are there to make the reader think about what is being said in the text. An example of rhetorical questions in this text is when it says 'Who'll give his country a hand?' This encourages the reader to think about how he could help his country out by fighting in the war. This is important because they will be known as a hero when they come back because they protected their country and their families. Another quotation that backs up this idea is 'Who would much rather come back with a crutch Than lie low and be out of the fun?' This makes the reader think about how if they go to war they might get injured but at least people will praise them for being a hero and fighting for their country, whereas if they don't go they won't be injured but people won't

respect them because they didn't go away and fight. From this we can see that rhetorical questions are a big part of this poem because the writer is trying to encourage people to go to war by making them think about how great they will be if they go.

Metaphors are also used in this poem. Metaphors are when you say something is another. An example of a metaphor in the text is where it says 'Who wants a turn to himself in the show? And who wants a seat in the stand?' The writer is saying that if you go to war it is like you are playing a big game that everyone who doesn't go to war will be watching and if you go it is like you are the equivalent to a professional sports player that everyone looks up to. Another example of metaphors in the text is 'Who knows it won't be a picnic' this is making the reader think about how it could actually be really easy and not to overthink it. If they think the war is going to be really hard then the people who are unsure about going definitely won't go but because they said it could be easy it makes them not as nervous about it but they still didn't promise it would be easy. This tells us that metaphors are important in this poem because they are using them to make war sound really easy when it actually isn't.

In conclusion there are many language features used in this poem mainly used to make war sound better than it really is. They use euphemism to make war sound a lot better than it really is, repetition to make the reader think about the main words used in the poem, rhetorical questions to make the reader think about what the writer is saying and metaphors to make war sound fun and easy. From these language features we can see that they are trying to do anything they can to get more people to go to war mainly by using euphemism to make it sound better than it is.