

① How did Rupert Brooke feel about Grantchester?

- He saw it as a safe-haven
- He clearly enjoyed the peace and nature there
- It was a place of relaxation close to his university
- He saw it as a second home
- He enjoyed the closeness of nature that he found there
- He liked the simplicity of his life as he describes his house as a 'hut' in his letter to Keynes sent 20th Jan. 1910.
- Letter from Frances Cornford to Edith March seems to suggest that Grantchester was simply just a place where Brooke lived and that he had no real feelings for Grantchester since he spent more time at Cambridge
- source of inspiration for him
- Look at Brooke's poems for more thorough discussion
 - ↳ 'The Old vicarage, Grantchester'

② Is Orwell's criticism of Rupert Brooke's poem 'The Old vicarage, Grantchester' fair? Does the poem provide a vivid description of Cambridgeshire or is it the result of homesickness and sentimentality?

- Orwell doesn't take into account any of the full poem and is very dismissive of it, calling it 'something worse than worthless'
- Orwell does recognize that the poem has its uses and his criticism is not completely one-sided.
- The poem does emphasize the homesickness of Brooke but it also offers a very in depth and sensitive description with words such as
- Brooke shows how beautiful Grantchester is and perhaps in some places overexaggerates the charms of the village eg. 'There's... men and women with straight eyes, the children lovelier than a dream' etc
- Brooke may have been using the poem simply to express his love and connection with Grantchester and so he was probably more on the sentimental side especially as he was far from home at the time of writing it eg. 'would I were in Grantchester'
- ∴ while the poem does give a vivid description of Cambridgeshire it is focussed on sentimentality and Orwell's criticism can be justified to an extent.

③ Can a poem be a 'valuable document' in terms of recording history? If so, does it need to be read in context?

- Poems are usually exaggerated and fixed more on flowing well than giving accurate dates in history.
- While poems can give good ideas of what was happening at the time, they cannot be a completely reliable source since the poet might be biased
- All sources are valuable in some way and poems can be valuable for recording history

- Poems should be read in context because they could give information regarding other events that had happened at that time.

④ Where do you think Rupert Brooke would have wanted his memorial?

- Although his family lived in rugby Brooke disliked living there as he said in a letter to G. Keynes on 20th Jan 1910 'if you knew how I hated Rugby!'

- I think that for Brooke, Grantchester was clearly his favourite and most loved place and that he would have wanted his memorial there.

- Especially as Grantchester was such a positive and inspiring place for Brooke ~~he~~ and he clearly enjoyed the peace and ^{self} reflection that he could have there.

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