

Anthem for Doomed Youth

By Wilfred Owen

*Transcription, correction, editorial commentary, and
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POEMS
BY WILFRED OWEN
WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
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ANTHEM FOR DOOMED YOUTH

- 1 WHAT passing-bells for these who die as cattle?
- 2 Only the monstrous anger of the guns.
- 3 Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle
- 4 Can patter out their hasty orisons.
- 5 No mockeries for them; no prayers nor bells,
- 6 Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs,—
- 7 The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;
- 8 And bugles calling for them from sad shires.

- 9 What candles may be held to speed them all?
- 10 Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes
- 11 Shall shine the holy glimmers of goodbyes.
- 12 The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;
- 13 Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,
- 14 And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.