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# GCE AS/A level English Literature 2015

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## Note on '*The War Correspondent*', Ciaran Carson

Since the publication of the 'Poems of the Decade: Teacher Guide' additional information has come to light in relation to 'The War Correspondent' by Ciaran Carson. The 'Poems of the Decade' anthology includes two of a seven part sequence of poems which make up 'The War Correspondent': 'I Gallipoli' and '4 Balaklava'.

The teacher guide invites students to consider the First World War setting of 'Gallipoli' and the Crimean War setting of 'Balaklava'. Interestingly, Ciaran Carson has recently stated that both poems are based on the Crimean War, though the title 'Gallipoli' does prefigure the chaos of the World War 1 Dardanelles campaign, or the chaos of any war.

Considering different ways of interpreting texts is a key aspect of the study of literature.

The consideration of context is not part of the assessment of contemporary poetry in either AS or A level and examiners will reward any reasonable readings of Carson's poems which are supported by the text.