



**NOTES:**

**UNIT: II (poetry-v)**

**THE SOLDIER by Rupert Brook**

**ABOUT THE POEM**

The poet, Rupert Brooke, was an officer in the British Army fighting in the First World War and was killed in the Eastern Mediterranean in 1915 just after four months of joining in the war at the young age of 28. He was considered to be one of the three soldier poets of the First World War.

The poem "The Soldier" is a sonnet (a kind of poem consisting of fourteen lines originated from Italy). In this poem, the poet shows the intense feeling of idealistic patriotism and the pride of being an Englishman. He even appreciated war as an end to the way of his deep love for his motherland.

**SUBSTANCE**

The poet, Rupert Brooke expresses deep love of motherland, intense idealistic patriotism and the pride of being an Englishman. He has a unique and the most beautiful idealistic life in which he appreciates war. According to him, being a soldier, he should be killed in the battlefield in a strange foreign land. When he dies in some corner of a foreign field and bury there, the piece of land will be forever England. In such a place, a rich English body whose body and mind were shaped in the rich English culture and tradition will lie buried as a vivid symbol of patriotism for all the time. After the poet dies in this manner, his soul and body will be purified and will also be merged with the Absolute Soul, the Creator. Thus, he would be able to preach the beautiful patriotic thoughts and feelings of England, his lovely motherland.

**WORD NOTES**

<b>Lines 1-8</b>	<b>: Foreign field</b>	– As a soldier, the poet was fighting for his motherland, England in some foreign land.
	<b>: Forever England</b>	– Since the body of the poet belongs to England, the place his dead body would be buried will be forever belonged to England.
	<b>: Richer dust</b>	– The body of the poet is referred to as 'richer dust' for he was brought up in the rich English tradition.
	<b>: Conceal'd</b>	– Buried.
	<b>: Bore</b>	– The poet was born by his mother but with his deep love of England, he feels that he was born by England.
	<b>: Made aware</b>	– Made conscious of English way of life, culture, tradition, love,

: *Her flowers*

patriotism, etc.  
– English people.



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- : *Breathing English air*** – Since the poet belongs to England, the sky above him also belongs to England and so he breathes English air.
  - : *Wash'd by the rivers*** – Washed by English water
  - : *Blest*** – Bless (poetic).
  - : *Home*** – England.
  - : *Blest by suns of home*** – As the sun is a blessing of God, sunshine is also a blessing that the poet, according to the poet, was conferred the divine favour.
- Lines 9-14**
- : *All evil shed away*** – The poet's soul, as he thinks, is purified.
  - : *A pulse*** – The purified soul of the poet that will be a part of the absolute Soul.
  - : *Eternal mind*** – God's mind that lasts forever.
  - : *Thoughts by England given*** – The thoughts the poet acquired when he was in England.
  - : *Her sights and sounds*** – The beautiful people and things the poet saw in England.
  - : *Gentleness*** – It seems to be an expression of the pride of being an Englishman and for the great English tradition.
  - : *English heaven*** – The beautiful English atmosphere.

