**UNFAMILIAR TEXT:- THEME: CONFLICT**

Introduction

The theme of conflict is a central theme in human experience. Conflict in its many forms seems to be an intrinsic part of our lives. Literature has been one of the ways in which people have shared ideas and experiences related to conflict, sometimes offering solutions and sometimes comfort; at the very least, the voices of those suffering through conflict can be heard. Two extracts here look at the experience of soldiers and two look at personal kinds of conflict and reactions to it.

**Bill East, Gallipoli Veteran**

Extract from a 1982 interview with Gallipoli veteran Bill East, from Voices of Gallipoli by Maurice Shadbolt.

So we had this attack on Hill 60… We were only told we were attacking the Turk trenches ahead and we’d be given the signal to charge. Not what the attack was for, or anything else\_ When the word came, our major, Major Bruiser Taylor, was right in from on me as he jumped to his feet…and he blew his whistle and pulled his sword out and shouted, “Charge!” And that’s all he said. The next thing he was flat on his face, shot through the head … I decided to go forward and all the rest were coming with me across an open piece of ground. We were just anyone’s mutton.

…I got sprayed with pellets in the blast. I got them in the lung. I had to drag myself away, feeling weaker all the time…I never cried, but it was the only time I felt like crying, that day. As I crawled away from Hill 60 I met three or four of our fellows wounded, badly wounded, dying, singing out for water. I threw them my water bottle. It was all I could do, all I could give them. My water bottle. That’s why I was almost crying. Was Gallipoli worth it, worth all that suffering?

I looked back and saw a hash. A waste of time and lives. You wonder whether it’s worthwhile or not fighting for freedom. There’s no freedom when nobody’s got a say in anything… I wouldn’t advise anyone to go to war again. Not the way we rode off to it in 1914. I wouldn’t want anyone to go through what we went through. What is war for? We could have done with some information on that too.

Task 1: Exploring Tone

1. Describe what happened to Bill East during and after the attack on Hill 60 in your own words.
   1. This extract from the interview with Bill East has a powerfully emotional tone. Find examples from the extract of the following language features that help Bill East to express his strong feelings:
2. Repetition
3. Short sentences
4. Minor sentences
5. Rhetorical questions
6. Metaphor
7. Understatement
   1. Explain what kind of emotions Bill East expresses in the extract. Support your ideas with details from the extract.
   2. As a result of these experiences, Bill East has a definite opinion about war. Explain what his opinion is.
   3. What is the effect on the reader of the first-person narrative in this extract?