

PART 5 THE COLD WAR

26. *Shalom Bomb* – Bernard Kops (HL)

1. *The poet intends to show that war is ridiculous and modern warfare is likely to wipe out the human race.*
2. *Playful but serious at the same time, Kops uses humour to effectively make a point about how crazy mankind is to tamper with weapons of mass destruction.*

27. *Icarus Allsorts* – Roger McGough (HL)

1. *The newspaper headline/by-line adds an element of possibility/reality/credibility to the rest of a farcical poem. Ironic because Vermont is sparsely populated and a meteorite falling there might not cause the loss of very much human life, but if the general believes it to be an enemy attack, he is likely to launch a missile that will set in motion the destruction of life on this planet.*
2. *While Icarus and his father Daedalus were held captive in a tower, Daedalus fashioned wings from feathers and beeswax. Together father and son escaped using the wings. Icarus was warned not to fly too close to the sun or his wings would be destroyed if the beeswax were to melt. Naturally, the young Icarus, wishing to test his wings, flew too close to the sun. His wings melted and he fell to the ground.*

28. *A Square Dance* – Roger McGough (HL)

WORKSHOP QUESTIONS:

1. *Your opinion is valuable: speak about how effective satire can be to make a social or political point. (General Discussion)*
2. *Who can say? There is no right or wrong with a question like this. Perhaps the answer has to do with both McGough's age and his particular place in history. Many creative minds were obsessed by the war. The post World War 2 period saw the emergence of many movies set during the war. Discuss the mindset that produced CND supporters among student bodies and liberal thinkers. Discuss the anger and outrage of the youth at that time.*

29. *Sleep now* – Brian Patten (NEP)

Not for exam purposed, this poem is included because it shows how poets of the period were felt connected to fellow poets. The questions arise: Why this poet? Why at this time?