

GRWW1 5h Zeppelin poetry

The idea of aerial bombardment of civilians by Zeppelins not only terrified people, but at the same time fascinated them as well. There were lots of poems written about them, several famous books and a lot of art was produced too.

One famous poem was written by Nancy Cunard, an 18 year-old girl who was the heiress to the Cunard shipping company and later became a writer and political activist. She witnessed the bombing of London first hand and it inspired her to write a poem called 'Zeppelins', which you can read here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/worldwarone/hq/zeppelins.shtml>. Another poem was written by the Canadian poet, teacher and academic Thomas O'Hagan.

Song Of The Zeppelin by Thomas O'Hagan

I cleave the air through the murky night,
 High o'er the forests and sleeping towns;
 Below me drifts the shimmering light--
 A glorious fresco on vale and downs;
 My sea hath no billows nor rocky shores,
 And only the winds disturb my soul;
 I care not for those who slumber in
 death,
 For my bomb is bloody and death my goal--
 - And all for the Vaterland!

Where the currents cross and the
 cruisers speed
 I sail towards the North in a piteous sky;
 I hear the night wind's surging note
 As it mingleth its requiem with the
 widow's cry.
 Above me there streams a light from
 heaven,

But I bow my head and veil my eyes
 As I plough the fields with my fateful
 keel
 And sow the highways with tears and
 sighs-- And all for the Vaterland!

And hate is the banner I unfurl so wide
 That its blood-dripp'd folds may catch
 the breeze;
 That e'en from the balcony of heaven on
 high
 May be seen this banner on all the seas.
 No triumph of arms is my flight by night,
 It is only a part of a murderous raid:
 Dropping a bomb on an innocent child
 Or a crowing babe in its cradle laid--
 And all for the Vaterland!

Your task is to write a poem about Zeppelins or airships. It can be in any style you wish - as narrative poem, a shape poem, a Haiku, a nonsense poem or an acrostick poem.

If you finish quickly, try another style! Here are some pictures to inspire you!

