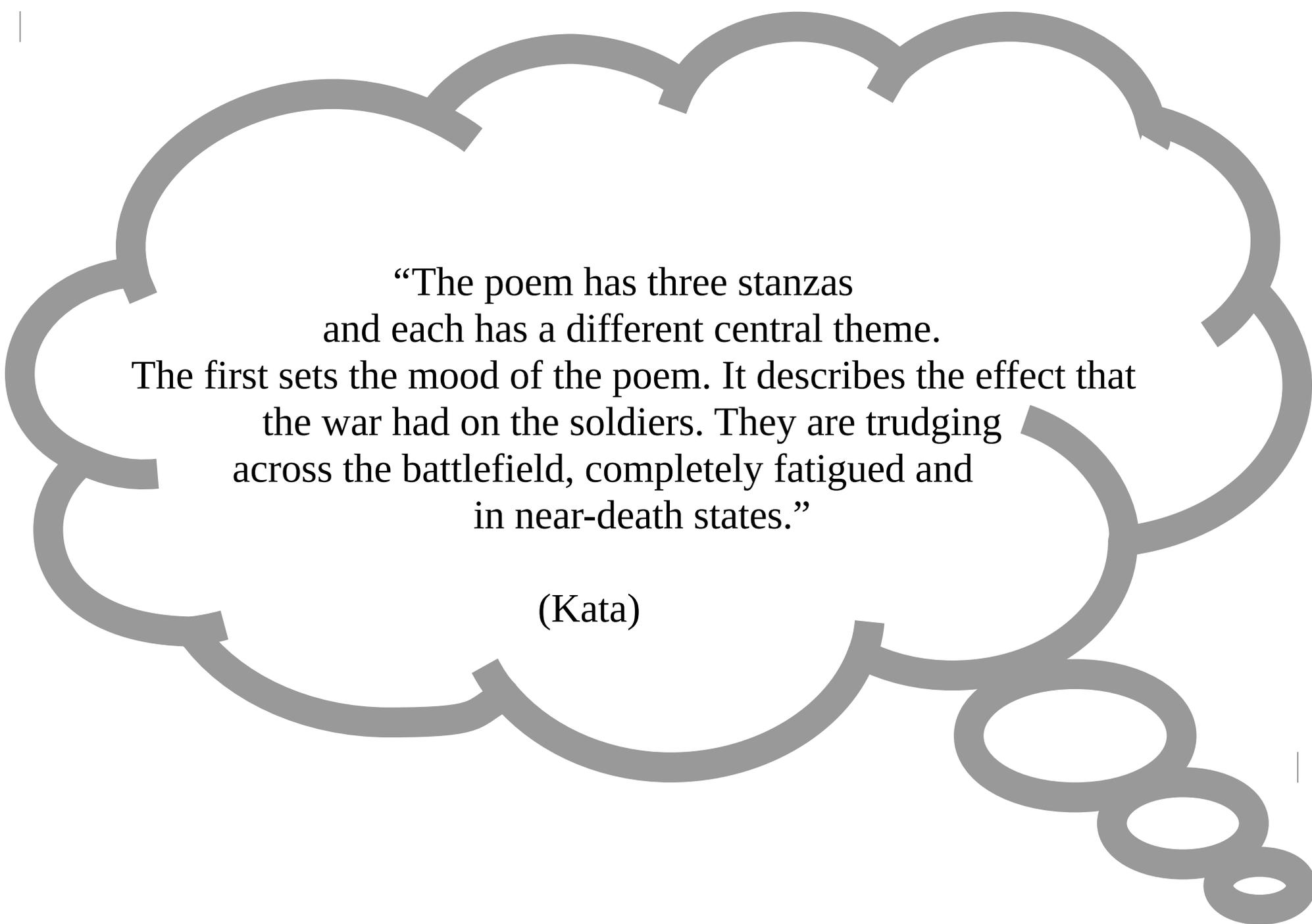


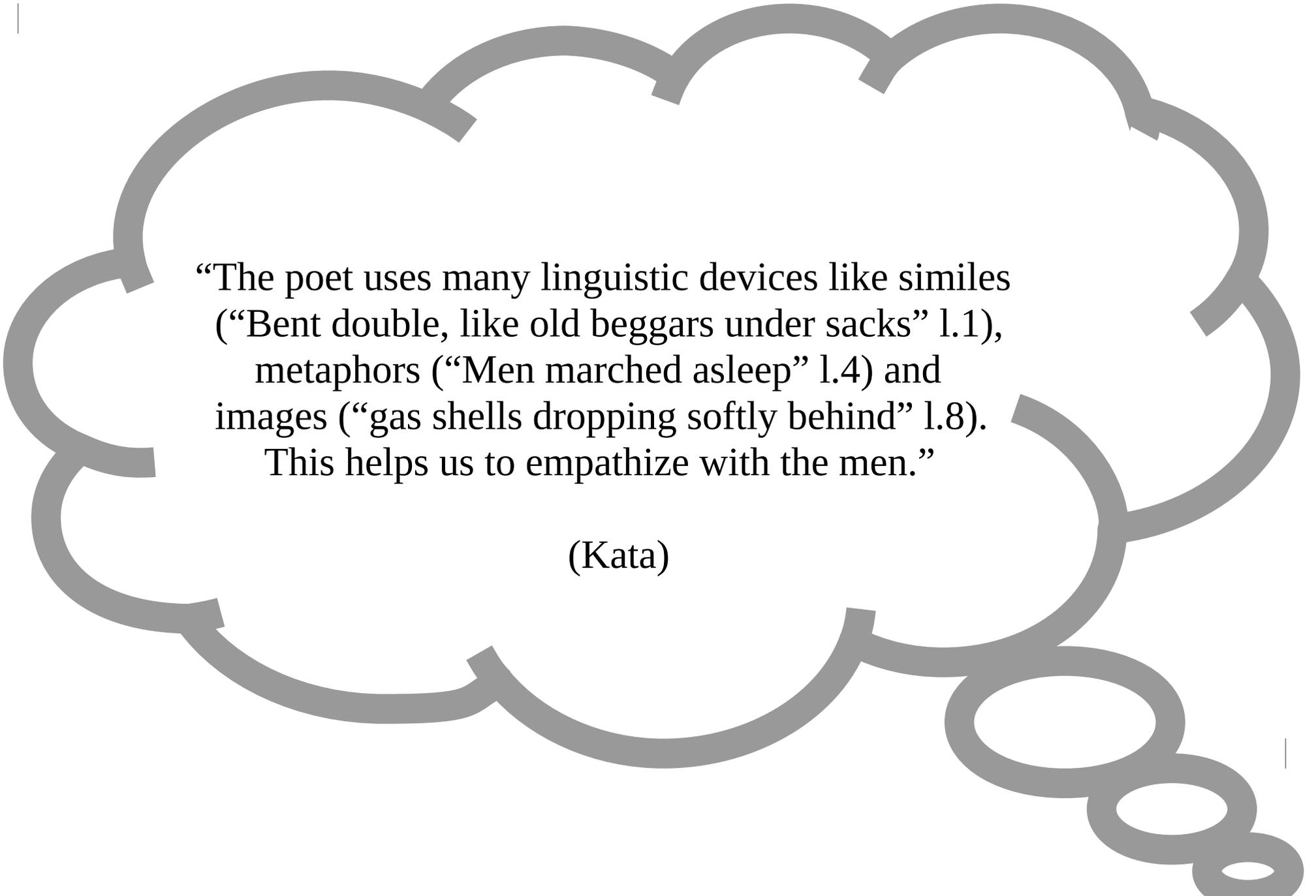
“The poem “Dulce et Decorum Est”,  
written by Wifred Owen (1893-1918),  
is about a man telling the reader  
that dying in a war is  
neither honourable nor beautiful.”

(Lola)



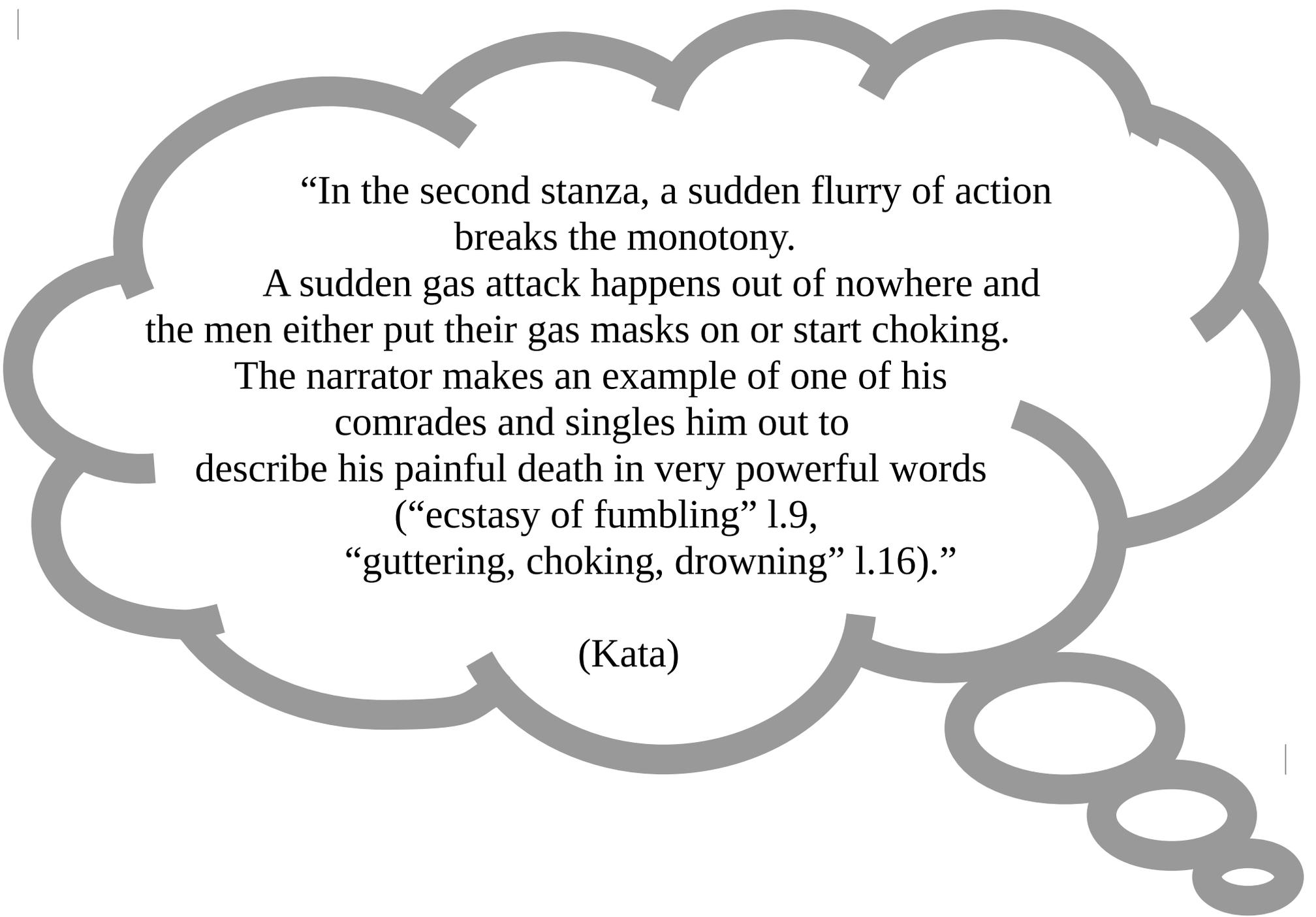
“The poem has three stanzas  
and each has a different central theme.  
The first sets the mood of the poem. It describes the effect that  
the war had on the soldiers. They are trudging  
across the battlefield, completely fatigued and  
in near-death states.”

(Kata)



“The poet uses many linguistic devices like similes (“Bent double, like old beggars under sacks” l.1), metaphors (“Men marched asleep” l.4) and images (“gas shells dropping softly behind” l.8). This helps us to empathize with the men.”

(Kata)

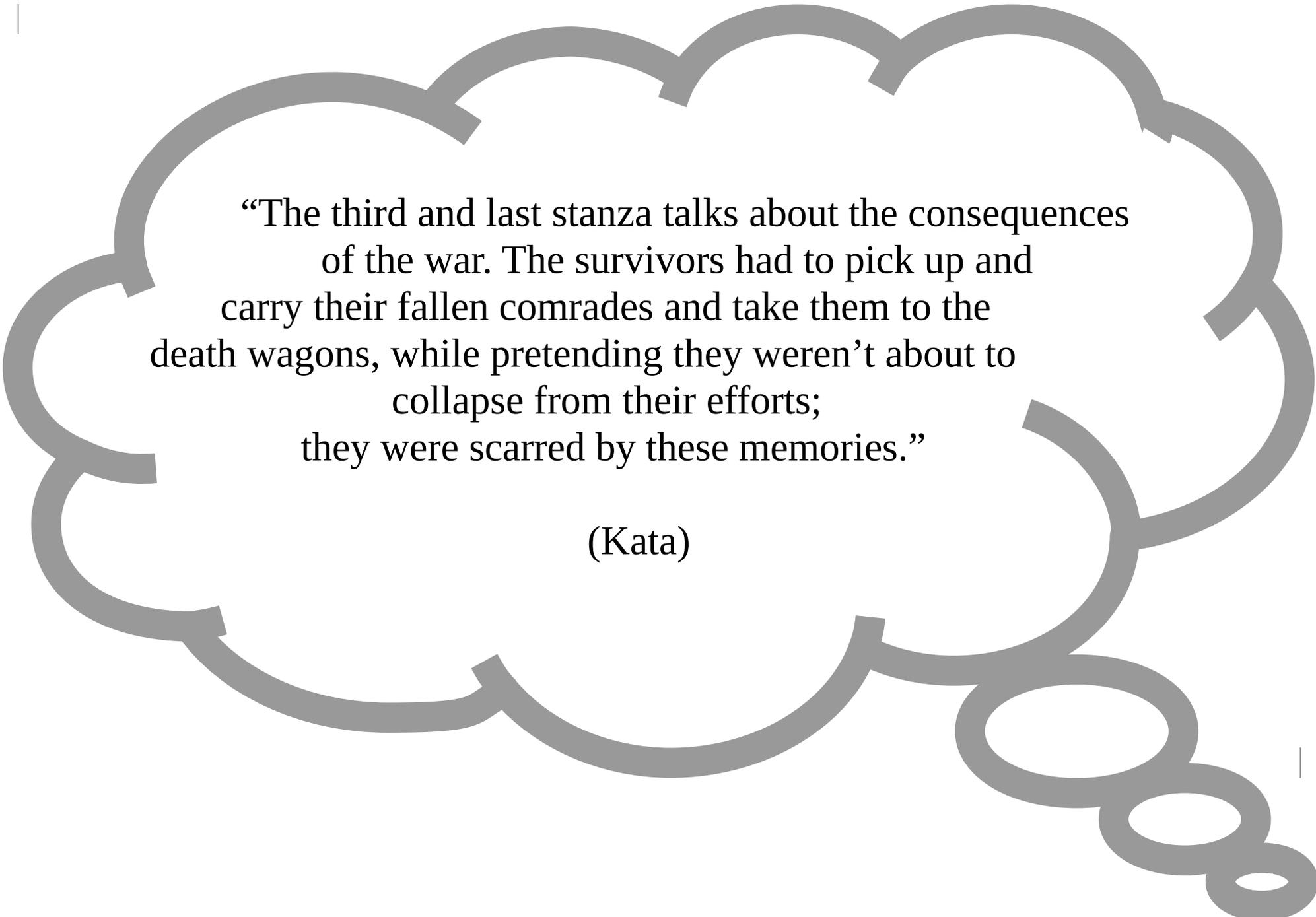


“In the second stanza, a sudden flurry of action  
breaks the monotony.

A sudden gas attack happens out of nowhere and  
the men either put their gas masks on or start choking.

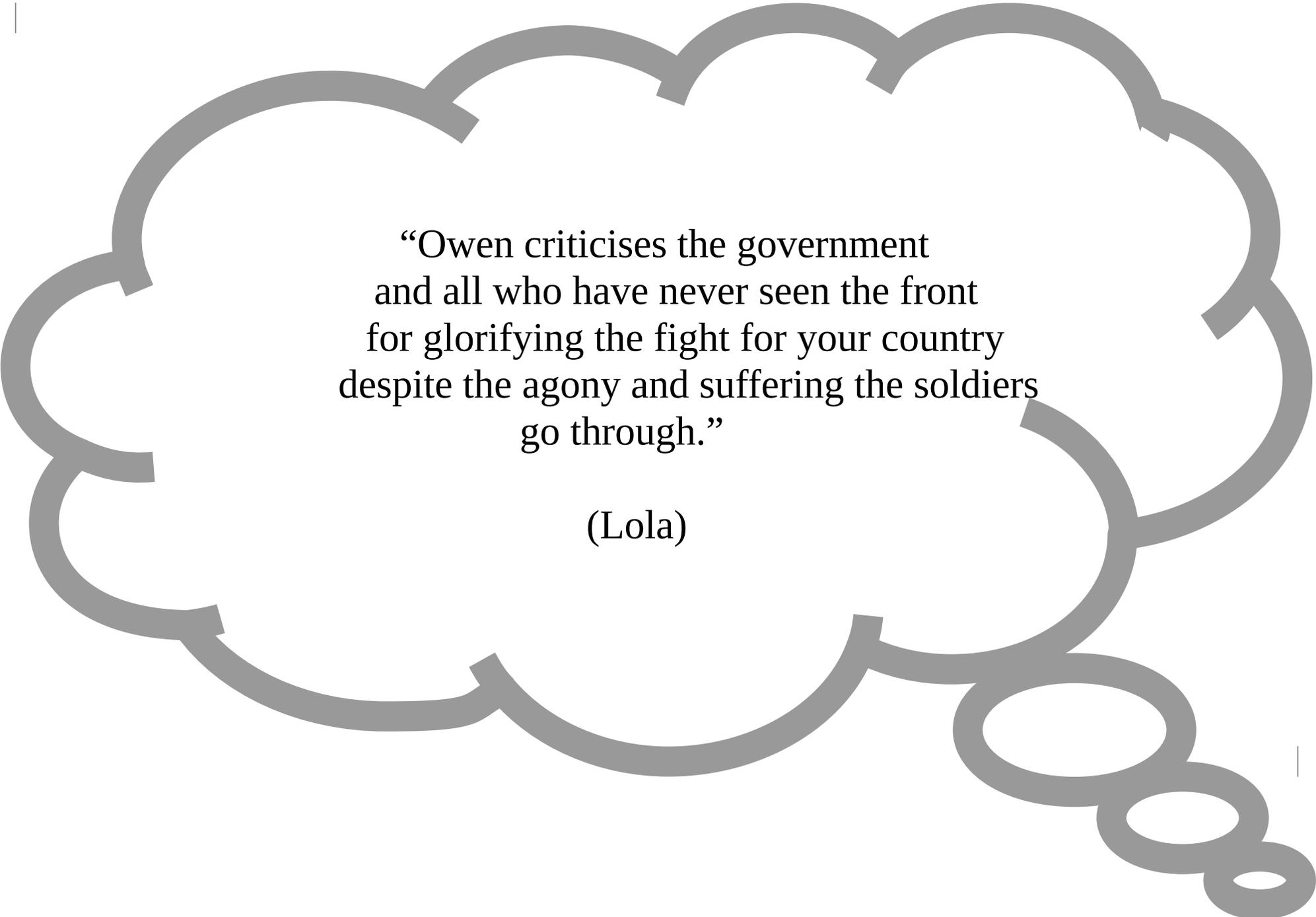
The narrator makes an example of one of his  
comrades and singles him out to  
describe his painful death in very powerful words  
(“ecstasy of fumbling” l.9,  
“guttering, choking, drowning” l.16).”

(Kata)



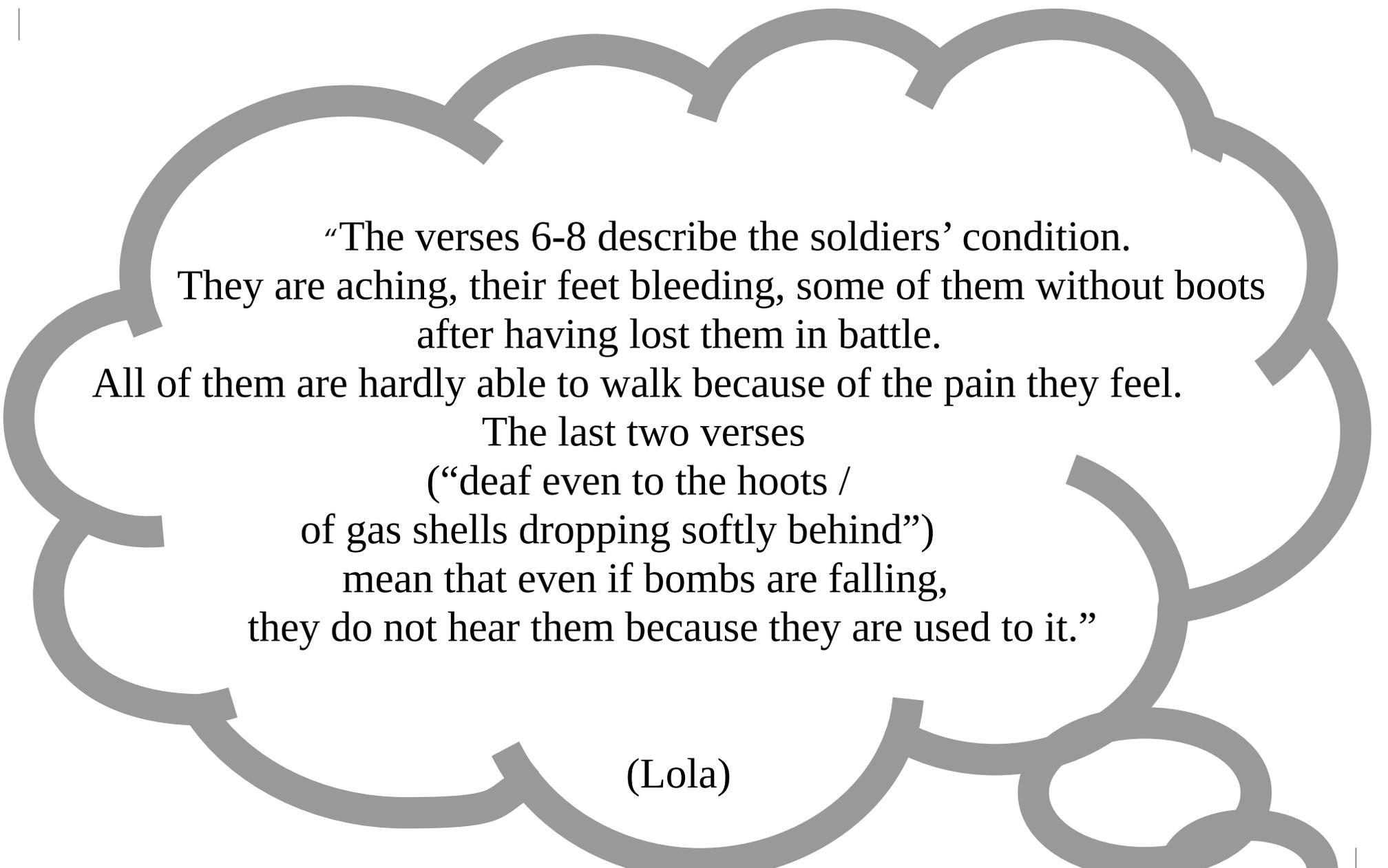
“The third and last stanza talks about the consequences of the war. The survivors had to pick up and carry their fallen comrades and take them to the death wagons, while pretending they weren’t about to collapse from their efforts; they were scarred by these memories.”

(Kata)



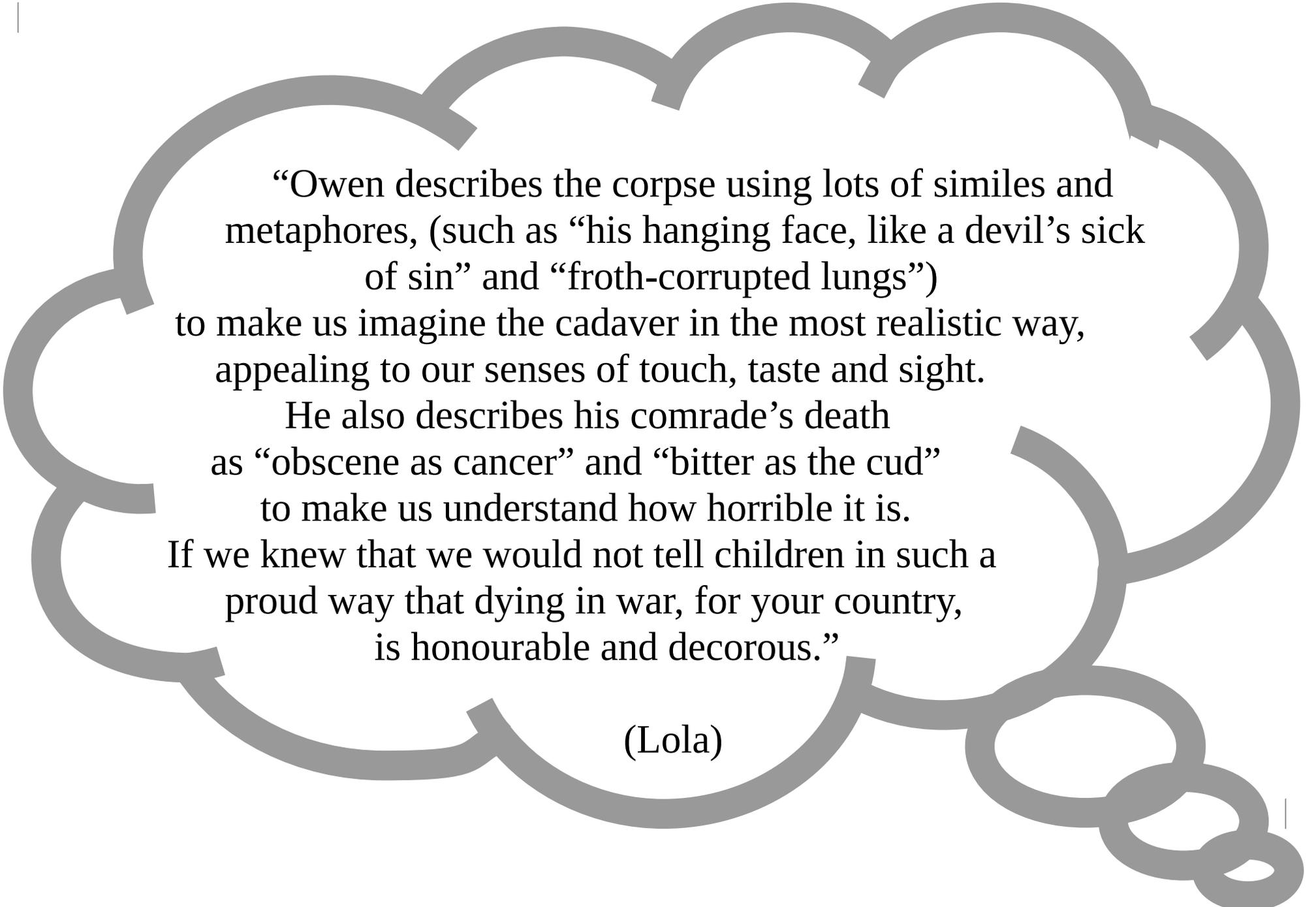
“Owen criticises the government  
and all who have never seen the front  
for glorifying the fight for your country  
despite the agony and suffering the soldiers  
go through.”

(Lola)



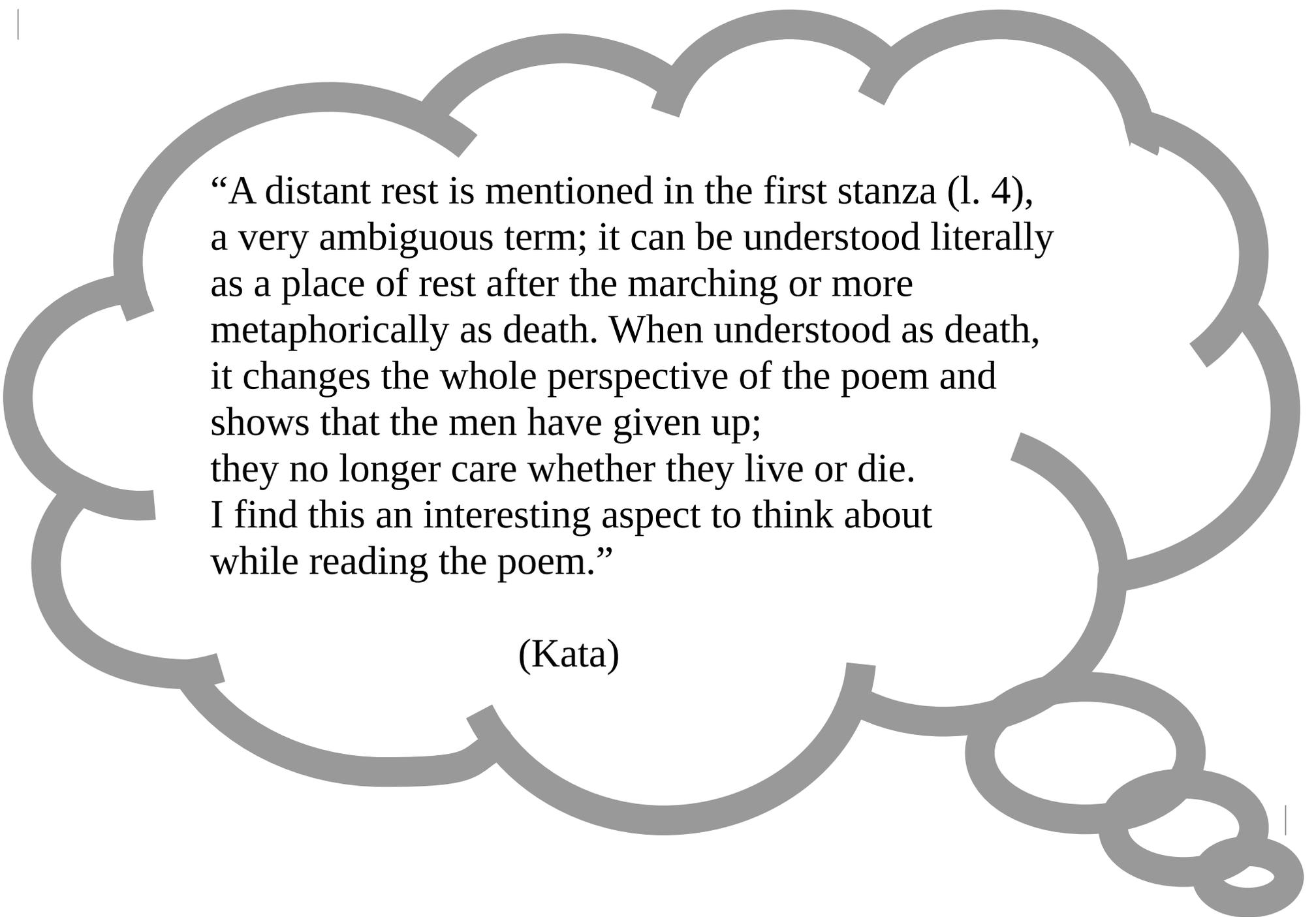
“The verses 6-8 describe the soldiers’ condition.  
They are aching, their feet bleeding, some of them without boots  
after having lost them in battle.  
All of them are hardly able to walk because of the pain they feel.  
The last two verses  
 (“deaf even to the hoots /  
of gas shells dropping softly behind”)  
mean that even if bombs are falling,  
they do not hear them because they are used to it.”

(Lola)



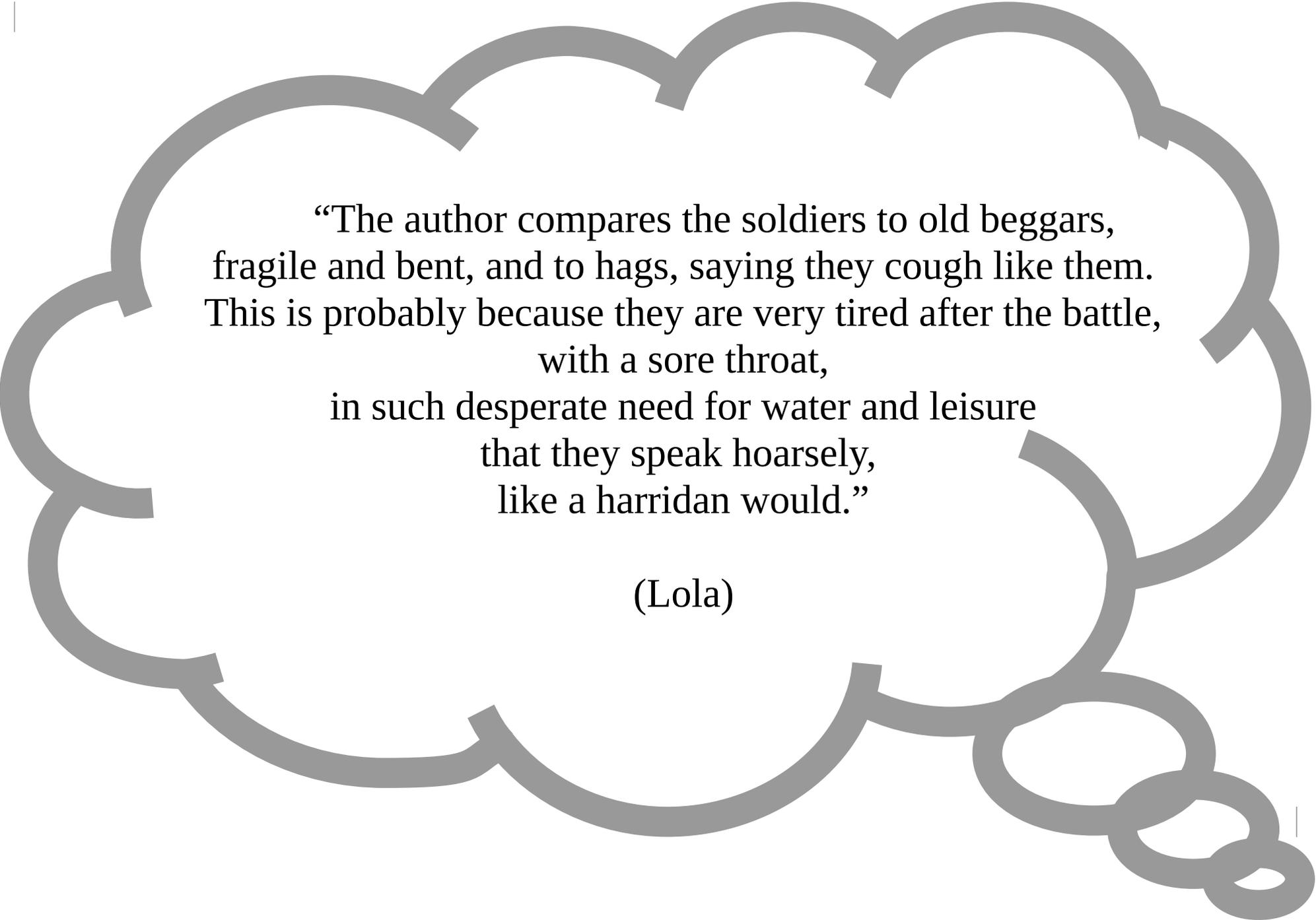
“Owen describes the corpse using lots of similes and metaphores, (such as “his hanging face, like a devil’s sick of sin” and “froth-corrupted lungs”) to make us imagine the cadaver in the most realistic way, appealing to our senses of touch, taste and sight. He also describes his comrade’s death as “obscene as cancer” and “bitter as the cud” to make us understand how horrible it is. If we knew that we would not tell children in such a proud way that dying in war, for your country, is honourable and decorous.”

(Lola)



“A distant rest is mentioned in the first stanza (l. 4), a very ambiguous term; it can be understood literally as a place of rest after the marching or more metaphorically as death. When understood as death, it changes the whole perspective of the poem and shows that the men have given up; they no longer care whether they live or die. I find this an interesting aspect to think about while reading the poem.”

(Kata)



“The author compares the soldiers to old beggars,  
fragile and bent, and to hags, saying they cough like them.  
This is probably because they are very tired after the battle,  
with a sore throat,  
in such desperate need for water and leisure  
that they speak hoarsely,  
like a harridan would.”

(Lola)