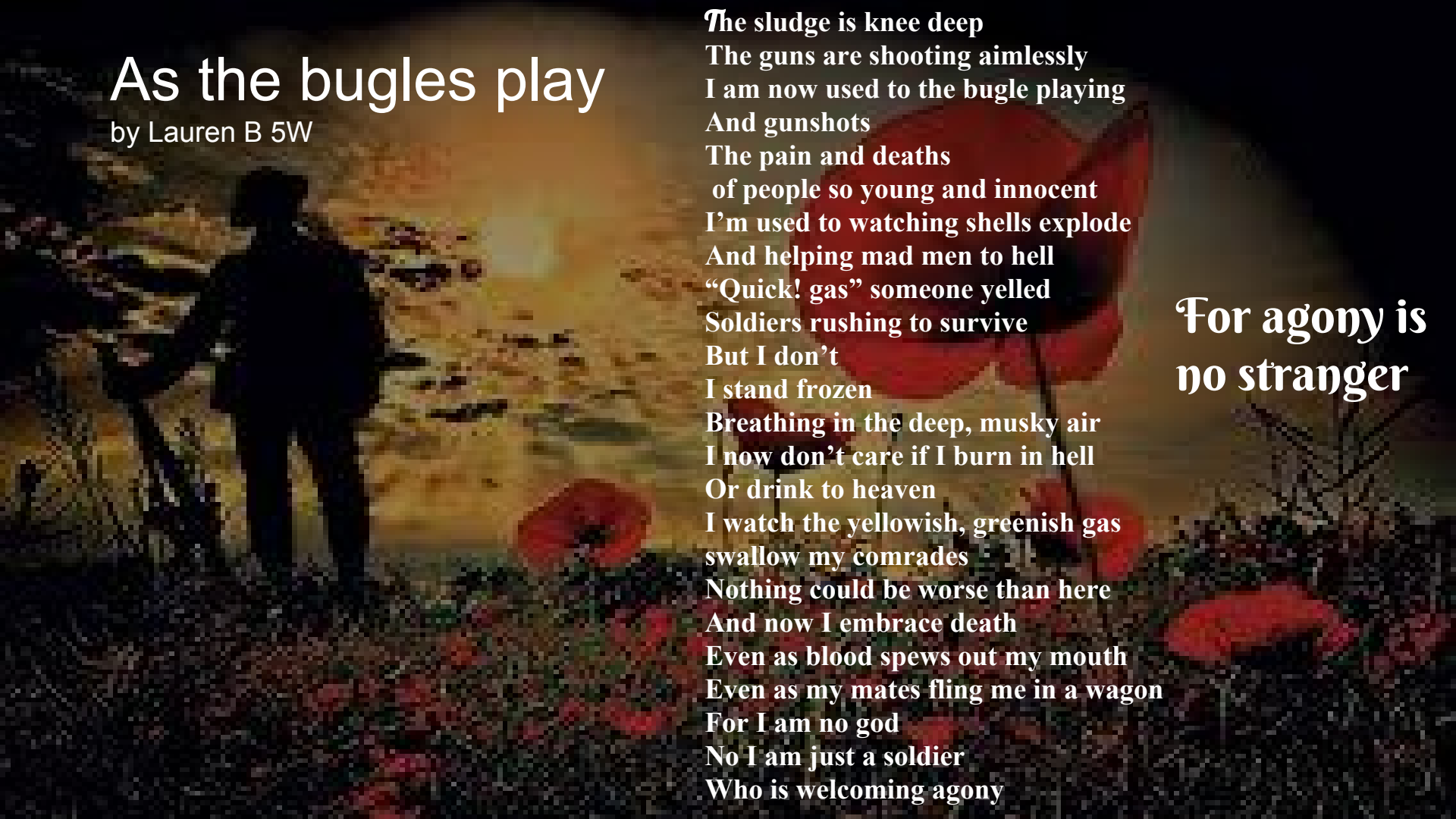


As the bugles play

by Lauren B 5W



The sludge is knee deep
The guns are shooting aimlessly
I am now used to the bugle playing
And gunshots
The pain and deaths
of people so young and innocent
I'm used to watching shells explode
And helping mad men to hell
"Quick! gas" someone yelled
Soldiers rushing to survive
But I don't
I stand frozen
Breathing in the deep, musky air
I now don't care if I burn in hell
Or drink to heaven
I watch the yellowish, greenish gas
swallow my comrades
Nothing could be worse than here
And now I embrace death
Even as blood spews out my mouth
Even as my mates fling me in a wagon
For I am no god
No I am just a soldier
Who is welcoming agony

For agony is
no stranger