



## **LESSON 2 - UNDERSTANDING THE OPENING TO UNDER MILK WOOD**

First of all, listen to and enjoy a reading of the opening of Dylan Thomas' 'play for voices'.

### **Task 1 – Getting a feel for the atmosphere**

What kind of mood is created to open the play? Jot down your immediate impressions as you listen – just write notes and immediate words that come to mind, not full sentences.

### **Task 2 – Getting to grips with difficult words.**

- ☹️ There will probably still be some words or images which you might not understand in the first paragraph. Underline them.
- 😊 + 😊 Share your list with your partner. Can they help you? Can you help them?
- 😊+😊+😊+😊 When you have worked as much as you can, link up with another pair of pupils and see if you can find an answer to your missing meanings.
- 😊😊😊😊😊 Finally, as a class, have a discussion about the words that proved a problem and reach a full understanding of the opening paragraph.

### **Task 3 – Focusing on the author's choice of words**

Working with your partner, read through the first paragraph and highlight up to **15 individual words** (not long passages), which you think are **key words** in creating the **mood and atmosphere**. Look for words relating to **sight** and **sound**.

Then put a circle around all the words which relate to **blackness** or **darkness**



**LESSON 3**

**Task 1 – Making sense of what you have read.**

What do we learn about the village of Llareggub in the opening? Note down your thoughts here.

TIME:

PLACE/SURROUNDINGS:

PEOPLE:

**Task 5 – Finding the 'shape' of the writing**

Skim read the text once more and decide what Dylan Thomas focuses on MAINLY in each of the four paragraphs to take the audience on a 'tour' of Llareggub in their imagination.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4



### **TASK 6 – Noticing punctuation**

This is a fairly lengthy passage, but how many sentences are there really?

Which is the shortest sentence you can find?

What kind of sentences are they? Look at the way they're punctuated.

What is the effect of these sentence patterns on the way you read, or the way you see, **Under Milk Wood** in your imagination? Write your thoughts.

What is your favourite sentence or part of a sentence? Why?

### **CREATIVE/EXTENSION TASK**

Imagine you are a film director creating the opening of **Under Milk Wood**. What would you wish to show in your first eight shots? Create a storyboard and choose the words from the extract to go with your chosen sequence.

### **OWN WRITING – Extension work**

Experiment with the text. Cut it up into words or lines of the words you find most interesting, and play around with reorganising your cut-ups on a page in the form of free verse, or a significant shape to reflect Dylan Thomas' prose. Glue them down, and create something new out of the original text of the play. **Under Milk Wood** has inspired artists and musicians of all kinds to make a new creative work based on the play. Join them!