



LESSON 5: GETTING TO KNOW SOME OF THE CHARACTERS in UNDER MILK WOOD

Task 1 – Recognising character traits

You have met many of the characters in the play through the lesson's performance work. Now complete the following grid correctly by matching up the correct ending to each character sentence, to sum up your understanding of their presentation. Briefly, say why you made that choice – remember that this could be WHAT they say, or HOW they say it.

CHARACTER	PERSONALITY	EVIDENCE? Choose a quote or give an explanation
Lily Smalls	is in a hurry	
Mrs Beynon	is flirtatious	
Mr Pugh	is easy-going	
Mrs Pugh	is late	
P.C. Attila Rees	is fussy	
Dai Bread	is friendly	
Mrs Dai Bread One	is bossy	
Mrs Dai Bread Two	is prim and proper	
Lord Cut-Glass	hates his wife	
Miss Price	is in a huff	
Polly Garter	is vain	



Task 2 – Working together creatively to make a Character Board

In groups, create a character board on which you place a brief summary of at least six characters. Divide the work fairly between you. What kind of people are these characters? How should they look, behave and sound? Choose a key quote for each one and say what it suggests about them. Who might be ideal actors to cast in each role?

EXTENSION TASK – OWN WRITING

Take a few characters of your own (imaginary or based on people you know) and write a short script which presents them as they wake up in their homes and start the day. Imagine that you, like a Captain Cat, are seated at a window watching a street wake up.

Notice how Dylan Thomas just gave us little glimpses of their personalities – he isn't telling a story or linking the characters up in a complicated way, simply presenting them to us through their words and manner of speaking. Take care with punctuation and try to capture the way different people speak and interact.