



## LESSON 6: HOW DID DYLAN THOMAS CREATE HIS CHARACTERS?

### Task 1 – Appreciating the connotation of names

Writers choose names very carefully to suggest particular qualities about their characters. Think of J.K Rowling, Roald Dahl, Charles Dickens. Can you think of examples of well-chosen names in their novels? What about Snape, Miss Trunchbull, Scrooge? In **Under Milk Wood**, Dylan Thomas does the same. What do you think the following names suggest about the character?

| NAME             | What does it suggest about CHARACTER? |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Polly Garter     |                                       |
| Lord Cut-Glass   |                                       |
| Lily Smalls      |                                       |
| P.C. Attila Rees |                                       |
| Nogood Boyo      |                                       |

### Task 2 – Noticing how humour is created

One of the things audiences enjoy about **Under Milk Wood** is the gentle humour which Dylan Thomas brings to his portrait of village life. What makes it funny? Listen to the recording or your group reading, or read it quietly in your head. Put a smiley face at each point where you found something amusing in the play.

Then make a note beside each face - what made it funny at that point? Was it the choice of words, what was said, or the way it was said? Share your thoughts with your partner.



Write your favourite humorous line/s in the box.

## **CREATIVE/EXTENSION TASK**

Create a top ten board of Characters Names in Fiction. Research among your peers or use your own reading and internet research to create a presentation, in any media of your choice, on the best names which appear in works of English fiction. They can be from children's books or young adult or adult. Give the reasons why, based on the kind of character being portrayed.

This could be an artistic display board/ powerpoint/a recorded interview in a group, like a radio arts programme/ top ten cards or poster/a lighthearted article for a magazine, for example.