



## Lesson 1 – Overview

By the end of this lesson, I will:

- Have an understanding of the poem's background and its general content.



# Lesson 1 Starter

Look at these words from the poem.

- Can you work out what the poem is about?
- Which words provide the best clues?

darkness / silence / the last light / the still hour /

the shadow of a sound / mourn / a grave truth / majesty and burning /

innocence and youth /

deep / London's daughter / unmourning water



## Lesson 1 Resource Sheet Task 1

**In pairs:**

- This is a poem about the death of a child. What would you expect the title to be?



## Lesson 1 Resource Sheet Task 2

The title of the poem is:

**‘A Refusal to Mourn the Death, by Fire, of a Child in London’**

Write it out on the top of your resource sheet

- How do you respond to the title?
- Is the title of the poem unexpected? Why/Why not?



## Title of poem

‘A Refusal to Mourn the Death, by Fire, of a Child in London’ by Dylan Thomas, was written and first published in 1945.

- Does the date 1945 help with our understanding of the background of the poem?



## London during WW2

- London was heavily bombed during the Second World War.
- The Blitz – London attacked over 70 times from September 1940 to May 1941.
- V-1 flying bombs and V-2 rockets (1944-45)
- Map of bombs which fell over London:  
<http://bombsight.org/#10/51.4788/0.0240>
- Tens of thousands lost their lives.



# London during Blitz





# London during Blitz







# London during Blitz



## Listen to the poem being read

- Here is a recording of Dylan Thomas reading of 'A Refusal to Mourn the Death, by Fire, of a Child in London':

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6B2c4b23r3k>

- What are your impressions of the reading?



# Lesson 1 Resource Sheet Task 3

In pairs, scan the poem to answer these questions.

- How many sentences does the poem contain?
- How many lines of the poem does each sentence cover?
- What is the effect of having a long sentence and other shorter sentences?