



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

Lesson 2 Overview:

By the end of this lesson, I will:

- Have a greater understanding of the first whole sentence of the poem.



Lesson 2 Resource Sheet Task 1 – Pair work

1. Is the word **Never** at the beginning of the poem effective? Why?/Why not?
2. Which adjectives are linked to **darkness**?
3. What or who **tells**?
4. What does Dylan Thomas say will happen when the world comes to an end in this stanza?



Lesson 2 Resource Sheet Task 2 – Pair work

1. When is **the child** first mentioned in the poem?
2. Who has dominated the poem up until now? Write down evidence of this.
3. Why does the poet use the words **majesty** and **burning** in connection with the child's death?
4. Explain the meaning of the following:
 - a. 'enter.. the round Zion of the water bead'
 - b. 'sow my salt seed'
 - c. 'valley of sackcloth'



Lesson 2 Resource Sheet Task 3

Think – Pair – Share

Consider the answers to following questions individually, then discuss with a partner.

1. What must happen before Dylan Thomas is prepared to mourn the death of the child?
2. Why do you think he says this?