



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

Lesson 3 Overview:

By the end of this lesson, I will:

- Have a greater understanding of the last two stanzas of the poem
- Begin to understand what the poet is saying in the whole of the poem.



Lesson 3 Resource Sheet Task 1 – Pair work

- Why does the poet use the phrase **I shall not murder...**?
- Which word from Stanza 1 is repeated in Stanza 3? Do you think this is important? If so – why? / If not – why not?
- What two meanings does a **grave truth** have?
- What are **the stations of the breath**?
- What is an **elegy**?



Lesson 3 Resource Sheet Task 2 – Pair work

- Why is the child referred to as **London's daughter**?
- Where has the child been buried?
- What or who are the **long friends**?
- What do the Thames and Dylan Thomas have in common?
- What does **the riding Thames** suggest to you?
- What does the final sentence mean?



Lesson 3 Resource Sheet Task 3

Class discussion

- What is 'A Refusal to Mourn...' about?
- What does Dylan Thomas say in the first full sentence of the poem?
- What does he say in Stanza 3 about his refusal to mourn?
- What does the poet describe in the first five lines of Stanza 4?
- How does the poem end?