



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

Lesson 4 Overview:

By the end of this lesson, I will:

- Understand how the poet uses language and imagery in this poem.



Lesson 4 Resource Sheet Task 1 – Pair Work

1. Make a note of words you would use or have seen in a poem about the death of a child.
2. What words does Dylan Thomas use in this poem to describe the child's death? (Look at Stanzas 3 and 4 in particular.)



Lesson 4 Resource Sheet Task 2 – Pair work

1. Look again at the **title** of the poem. What do you think is the **key word** in the title?
2. Look through the poem and find any other words and phrases which demonstrate the **negative** attitude of the poet.



Dylan Thomas and Religion

Dylan Thomas went to chapel as a child, heard the Bible being read and also read the New Testament for himself.

This is reflected in the **language** and **imagery** of his work, which is said to be influenced by the **Judeo-Christian tradition** (that is, elements which can be found in the Jewish and Christian tradition such as The Ten Commandments).



Lesson 4 Resource Sheet Task 3 – Pair work

- Look again through Stanzas 2 and 3 to find references to the Judeo-Christian tradition.



Dylan Thomas and the Natural World

As we have already seen, Dylan Thomas in this poem portrays death as a part of the **cycle of life and death in the natural world.**



Lesson 4 Resource Sheet

Task 4 – Pair work

- Look for references to the **natural world** in the poem.



Language Patterns

Dylan Thomas often **repeats language patterns** in his work, modifying them with different words or elements of vocabulary.



Lesson Resource Sheet

Task 5 – Pair work

Look for: Words ending in **–ing** in Stanza 1:

The pattern **the ... of the** in Stanzas 2, 3 and 4

- What is the effect of these repeated patterns?



Lesson 4 Resource Sheet Task 6 – Individual work

Fill in this grid with examples from the poem and complete the sentences in the third column.

Language or imagery	Example(s) from the poem	Why does the poet use this language or imagery?
Negative words or phrases		The poet uses negative words of phrases to convey...
References to the Judeo-Christian tradition		By using references to the Judeo-Christian tradition, the poet ...