



**DYLAN THOMAS**

ROCK AND ROLL POET - KS4

# **Belonging and Death**

In the poetry of Owen Sheers and  
Dylan Thomas



## What does the word 'belonging' mean to you?

- Identity
- Worth
- Morals
- Values
- Family
- Fitting in
- Heritage
- Culture
- Past



**Look at the following image painted by Christopher Williams:**



**Battle of Mametz Wood (1918) by Welsh artist Christopher Williams (1873-1934) © Public Domain**



## **In pairs: Imagine that you are in this scene and discuss the following:**

- What you can see;
  - What you can hear;
  - What you can smell;
  - What you can taste;
  - How you feel.
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- Record these on the worksheet provided



## Class reading of poem 'Mametz Wood' by Owen Sheers.




Consider the following:

- Do you think the image is a true reflection of what Sheers is trying to convey in his poem?
- How effectively does the poet present the themes of death and belonging?
- Which words or phrases stand out to you and why?
- What do you think the intention of the poet was when writing?



## Class Reading of Dylan Thomas' poem 'Ceremony after a Fire Raid'

Task: Create a key of three colours and on the copy of the poem

- highlight all references to religion 
- highlight all references to death 
- highlight all references to nature 



## Venn diagram

- Keeping the themes of death and belonging in mind, note down what you think the similarities and differences are between both poems.

Remember that Sheers wrote his poem as a commemoration to Welsh soldiers that lost their lives during the First World War. Thomas, on the other hand, is referring to the air raids of the Second World War and the death of an infant.





## Extended Writing Task:

- Compare and contrast the way that both poets approach the themes of death and belonging. In your response you could consider:
  - the way the poem is structured;
  - the message that the poet wanted you to consider;
  - any specific techniques or images used;
  - your personal reaction to both poems.