# Lesson 4: ‘A Refusal to Mourn the Death, by Fire, of a Child in London

### Task 1

1. **In pairs**, make a note of words you would use in a poem about the **death of a child**. You may also want to consider words you have seen in other poems 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.)

### Task 2

1. **In pairs,** 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 towards mourning the child.

### Task 3

Look again through Stanzas 2 and 3 to references to the Judeo-Christian tradition. The first one is given to you:

the round **Zion** of the water bead

### Task 4

**In pairs,** look for references to the **natural world** in the poem.

### Task 5

**In pairs,** look for:

Words ending in –**ing** in Stanza 1

The pattern **the …. of the ….** in Stanzas 2 and 3

### 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 … |
| References to the natural world |  | References to the natural world are used to …  |
| Repeating language patterns |  | By repeating language patterns, the poet creates the effect of …  |