



## 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 or 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 ... |