



A Refusal to Mourn the Death, by Fire, of a Child in London

Lesson 1

Overview

- Provide background information on Dylan Thomas and World War 2
- Discussing the title and general content of the poem
- Listen to the poem being read

Resources

- Word document: KS4 ARTM Teacher Notes
- Word document: KS4 ARTM Learner Resource Sheets
- PowerPoint presentation: KS4 ARTM L1 Presentation
- Dylan Thomas reading poem: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6B2c4b23r3k>
- Background information on Dylan Thomas

Suggested procedure

- Explain to learners, **without mentioning the title of the poem**, that you are going to study a poem about Dylan Thomas.
- **A presentation on** Dylan Thomas's background can be found on this website in the section on 'The Hunchback in the Park'.
- **Introduction and Objectives:** Slides 1 and 2, KS4 ARTM L1 Presentation



- **Starter:** Use Slide 3, KS4 ARTM L1 Presentation) for learners to discuss in pairs/groups:

Look at these words from the poem.

- Can you work out what the poem is about?
- Which words provide the best clues?

darkness
silence
the last light
the still hour
the shadow of a sound
mourn
majesty and burning
a grave truth
innocence and youth
deep
London's daughter
unmourning water

- Having discussed the possible answer, explain that the poem deals with the death of a child, (a young girl, as 'London's daughter' suggests).
- Introduce Task 1 on the resource Sheet/presentation
 - What title would you give the poem?

Discuss the titles suggested by learners.

- Introduce the title of the poem and ask learners to write it out on their resource sheet (Task 2 on Resource sheet/Presentation):
 - How do you respond to the title?
 - Is the title of the poem unexpected? Why?/Why not?
- Tell learners that this poem was written in 1945. As a class, discuss the following question:
 - Does the date 1945 help with our understanding of the background of the poem?
- Present **background information on London and World War 2** from the Teacher Notes and L1 Presentation.



- **Without** providing learners with a copy of the poem, **listen to the poem being read** by Dylan Thomas from the link on the Powerpoint presentation:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6B2c4b23r3k>

Ask for their impressions of the reading and the poem itself. The Teacher Notes refers to the background of the recording.

- Now listen to the reading again with a copy of the poem provided (either a hard copy each or poem on whiteboard).
- Ask learners, in pairs, to scan the poem in order to answer these questions (Task 3):
 - How many sentences does the poem contain?
 - How many lines of the poem does each sentence cover?
- To conclude the lesson, recap what has been discussed so far in regards to the poem.