



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

## Lesson 3

### Overview

- Look in detail at last two stanzas of poem
- Start consolidating understanding of the whole of the poem

### Resources

- Word document: KS4 ARTM Teacher Notes
- Word document: KS4 ARTM Resource sheets
- PowerPoint presentation: KS4 ARTM L1 Presentation

### Suggested procedure

1. Review Lessons 1 and 2, spending some time on recapping the final questions of Lesson 2.
2. Look at Stanza 3, from the second line, with the Teacher Notes as a guide. The following questions may prove useful for pair/group work to confirm understanding (Resource sheet/PowerPoint presentation, Lesson 3 Task 1):
  1. Why does the poet use the phrase **I shall not murder**...?
  2. Which word from Stanza 1 is repeated in Stanza 3? Do you think this is important? If so - why?/ If not – why not?
  3. What two meanings does **a grave truth** have?
  4. What are **the stations of the breath**?
  5. What is an **elegy**?

How has this Stanza contributed to learners' understanding of the poem?

3. Continue by looking at Stanza 4 with the class. Again, the following questions may be used for pair work to supplement your explanation (Resource sheet/Powerpoint presentation, Lesson 3 Task 2):
  1. Why is the child referred to as **London's daughter**?
  2. Where has the child been buried?
  3. What or who are the **long friends**?
  4. What do the Thames and Dylan Thomas have in common?



5. What does **the riding Thames** suggest to you?
  6. What does the final sentence mean?
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4. Use the following questions (Resource sheet/PowerPoint presentation, Lesson 3 Task 3) to start consolidating understanding of the whole of the poem. These can be discussed as a class and then learners can note their answers individually as a record of the discussion:
    1. What is 'A Refusal to Mourn . . .' about?
    2. What does Dylan Thomas say in the first full sentence of the poem?
    3. What does he say in Stanza 3 about his refusal to mourn?
    4. What does the poet describe in the first five lines of Stanza 4?
    5. What does the poet say in the final sentence?