

Learning Resource Pack – Lesson 1

Dylan Thomas's writing

Key Stage 2
History and Literacy

LAWRI
THOMAS



Introductory Notes

The poetry and writing of Dylan Thomas is widely recognised for its originality and creativity – but who was Dylan Thomas? What influenced him to write?

Curriculum Links – English

Oracy Skills (2) – Pupils should be given opportunities to identify key points and to follow up ideas through question and comment, developing response to others in order to learn through talk.

Reading – Range (3) – Pupils should be given opportunities to develop their reading/viewing skills through experiencing and responding to a wide range of texts that include texts with a Welsh dimension.

Writing – Range (1) – Pupils should be given opportunities to develop their writing skills through writing for a range of purposes, e.g. to entertain, report, inform. Instruct, explain, persuade, recount, describe, imagine and to generate ideas.

Curriculum Links – Welsh

Oracy Skills (2) – Pupils should be given opportunities to respond extensively by: recognizing the main points, asking questions and offering comments, and taking and making use of notes based on their enquiries.

Reading – Range (4) – Pupils should be given opportunities to identify the characteristics of different genres in terms of organization, structure and presentation; note how effects are created by orthographical devices, sounds and words and differentiate between fact and opinion

Writing – Range (4) – Pupils should be given opportunities to write in response to a variety of audio, visual and audio-visual stimuli, e.g. stories, poems

Literacy Framework

Writing – organizing ideas and information – meaning, purpose and readers

Oracy – developing and presenting information and ideas – collaboration and discussion

Cross-Curricular / Curriculum Cymreig

Learners aged 7-14 should be given opportunities to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the cultural, economic, environmental, historical and linguistic characteristics of Wales.

Skills Framework Links – Thinking across the curriculum

Develop – Considering evidence, information and ideas – to begin to distinguish between ‘facts’, beliefs and opinions.

Stimuli

Extracts of the poetry of Dylan Thomas – ‘Poem in October’*, ‘On His Birthday’*, ‘Over Sir John’s Hill’* & Fern Hill / extracts from ‘Under Milk Wood’* Cadw Outreach School Projects – ‘Over Dylan’s Shoulder’, ‘Under Dylan’s Pen’ & ‘In Dylan’s Pocket’.

NB anything marked * would have to be sourced by the class teacher.

Resources

Discovering Dylan Card Match Activity, Discovering Dylan PowerPoint Presentation, Pupil Mind Map.

Work Sheet. Teachers should also consider making additional resources available – e.g. original Dylan Thomas texts such as ‘Under Milk Wood’.

Dylan Thomas

Learning Objective(s)

- To develop knowledge and understanding about the life and work of Welsh Poet Dylan Thomas.

Success Criteria – By the end of the lessons pupils will be able to

- Mind Map significant events in the life of Dylan Thomas and some of the significant influences on his writing.

Starting Activity – Whole Class – 10 Minutes

- Play one of the Cadw Dylan Thomas 100 School Projects – ‘Over Dylan’s Shoulder’, ‘Under Dylan’s Pen’ or ‘In Dylan’s Pocket’. Alternatively choose an extract or extracts from the actual work of Dylan Thomas listed under stimuli and read the extracts to the pupils.
- Key Question – What do we know about the life and work of Dylan Thomas? Even pupils of a young age may have opinions that are shaped by adults – some positive – some negative.
- Discuss the theme of the lesson – ‘Discovering Dylan’ and the importance of having an informed opinion.

Exploration – Group Work – 40 Minutes

- Discovering Dylan Card Match Activity – Match descriptions with pictures – Pairs or group work at the discretion of the teacher / Key Question - What do the descriptions and pictures say about the life and work of Dylan Thomas?
- Record main points / notes on the Discovering Dylan Mind Map (provided) – the use of a variety of colours is recommended. Teaching Point – note taking was essential part of Dylan’s writing style. He kept a series of notebooks over his career.
- A mid lesson revue is recommended – to ensure that pupils have successfully matched descriptions with pictures – some whole class discussion to ensure that pupils understand what they have to do.

Plenary – Whole Class – 10 Minutes

- Review findings using the Discovering Dylan PowerPoint Presentation. This is an opportunity for pupils to share what they have found out.
- NB. The photographs in the PowerPoint match those used in the Card Match Activity.

Extension activity – Internet Research

- There is a wide variety of web based material relating to Dylan Thomas – care should be taken to choose sites that are suitable for primary school pupils.
- This is the official Dylan Thomas website – www.dylanthomas.com

Additional Notes

Literacy Education Resource

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The programme of work contained in this education resource came about as a result of an outreach project carried out to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Dylan Thomas in 1914.

Dylan Thomas is an inspirational Welsh poet. His writing has a place within the Primary School Curriculum.

The lessons developed for this programme are a starting point for the study of Dylan Thomas, particularly for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils.



Dylan Thomas

Software Requirements: Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint

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Acknowledgements: <http://www.dylanthomas.com>

BBC Wales Vincent Kane interview with Caitlin Thomas – 1977

Dylan Thomas Omnibus – Phoenix 1995