Task 1 - Vocabulary and Writing
Work in pairs. Complete the sentences to describe what you can see in the pictures below.

a. This is a picture of an apple orchard under a clear blue sky. There is a green grass path...

b. This is a picture of a farm ...

c. This is...

d. ...
Task 2 - Speaking
Work in pairs.
- Are there places like the ones in the photos in your country?
- Which of these images is your favourite? Why?

Task 3 - Vocabulary
Match the phrases below to the pictures (a/b/c/d).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase</th>
<th>Picture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>And as I was green and carefree, famous among the barns</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And nightly under the simple stars</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Now as I was young and easy under the apple boughs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Out of the whinnying green stable</td>
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<tr>
<td>In the moon that is always rising,</td>
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<tr>
<td>In the sun that is young once only,</td>
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<tr>
<td>And honoured among wagons I was prince of the apple towns</td>
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<tr>
<td>My wishes raced through the house high hay</td>
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<tr>
<td>The night above the dingle starry,</td>
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<tr>
<td>All the sun long it was running</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Under the new made clouds and happy as the heart was long</td>
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<tr>
<td>And the sun grew round that very day.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The lines above come from Dylan Thomas’ famous poem *Fern Hill*. In the poem he describes the farm he visited in his childhood and recreates a child’s view of a beautiful and innocent world.

Task 4 - Reading and listening
Listen to the audio recording of the poem being read. Complete the poem with the lines from the table above.
Fern Hill
By Dylan Thomas

And then to awake, and the farm, like a wanderer white
With the dew, come back, the cock on his shoulder: it was all
Shining, it was Adam and maiden,
The sky gathered again

So it must have been after the birth of the simple light
In the first, spinning place, the spellbound horses walking warm

On to the fields of praise.

And honoured among foxes and pheasants by the gay house

In the sun born over and over,
I ran my heedless ways,

And nothing I cared, at my sky blue trades, that time allows

In all his tuneful turning so few and such morning songs
Before the children green and golden
Follow him out of grace,

Nothing I cared, in the lamb white days, that time would take me

Up to the swallow thronged loft by the shadow of my hand,

Nor that riding to sleep
I should hear him fly with the high fields

And wake to the farm forever fled from the childless land.

Oh as I was young and easy in the mercy of his means,
Time held me green and dying
Though I sang in my chains like the sea.
Task 5 - Language work
In this poem Dylan Thomas paints a picture of Fern Hill with his words. Look at the poem again and analyse its language. Find words associated with:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colour</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural landscape</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm life</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Passing time</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spiritual life/religious connotations</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Task 6 - Speaking
Work in small groups. *Fern Hill* is a poem about childhood memories and about growing old. Discuss the following questions with your colleagues:

- Do you like the poem? Why (not)?
- Did you go to special places when you were a child?
- Are there memories of your childhood that you would like to share?

Homework
Choose a picture that shows a natural landscape. Describe it using some of the words and expressions you find in *Fern Hill* (100-150 words).
You can write it as a prose paragraph or as a poem.
Bring your text and picture to your next lesson or post them to your class blog if you have one.

*Materials by Chris Lima*