Lesson 12: The creation of *Under Milk Wood*

**Worksheets**

**Task 1 – Speaking**

Discuss the questions below:

- What does the title *Under Milk Wood* suggest to you?
- Do you have any information about it?

**Task 2 – Listening**

Watch the speakers talking about how Dylan Thomas created *Under Milk Wood*. Put the sentences in the order you hear them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th>Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“He starts <em>Under Milk Wood</em> at the age of seventeen. He doesn’t finish it... well he doesn’t <em>finish</em> it...but he gets to the end of it at the age of 39.”</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>“It was here in London, during the war, that he began to find fresh impetus for the project.”</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>The place “is preserved in this kind of pure stasis of happiness, almost a heaven in West Wales.”</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Everyone everywhere can identify with this image, this picture, of small town seaside life.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“From the violation that the war constituted, he developed a pastoral sense of the green planet, of the green world.”</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>“So what we have here is a sense of the post-war world as a threatened one, as a mad one, driven by a kind of insane arms-race logic, which Thomas completely opposed.”</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Task 3 – Language work**

These are the some of the collocations the speakers use. What do they mean? Write your own sentences using them.

a. Fresh impetus ........................................................................................................................................

b. Pure happiness ..........................................................................................................................................,

c. Seaside life ....................................................................................................................................................

d. Green world ...................................................................................................................................................

e. Arms-race logic ...............................................................................................................................................
Now use a dictionary and find at least two other collocations for the words below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>word</th>
<th>collocation 1</th>
<th>collocation 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>image</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>town</td>
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<td>logic</td>
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<td>war</td>
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Task 4 – Speaking

Look at the picture of the place that greatly inspired Dylan Thomas to write *Under Milk Wood*. Discuss the questions below:

- Would you like to live in this place?
- What kind of people do you think live there?

Task 5 – Listening

Watch the second part of the video. Write **T** (true) or **F** (false), according to the information given by the speakers.

a. Thomas believed that there should be a play based on Laugharne and its people. (   )
b. *Under Milk Wood* is only about Laugharne. (   )
c. Thomas created lists of words and used them to create poetic images. (   )
d. Dylan Thomas completed the play in 1953. (   )
e. The first performance was in London. (   )
f. The first BBC live broadcast was 2 months after his death. (   )
g. The first time the play was performed in Laugharne was in 1959. (   )
h. Thomas’ mother passed away before the play was performed in Laugharne. (   )

Task 6 – Speaking

When talking about the village where *Under Milk Wood* is set, Professor John Goodby states that, ‘*Everybody needs a space like that, a utopian space, in their life and in their culture.*’ Do you agree with this? Why (not)?

Homework

Imagine you are writing a play based on a utopian, idyllic place and its people. Where would it be set? What kind of characters would you put in it? Choose a picture of the place and write a synopsis of your play. Bring it to your next lesson.

*Materials by Chris Lima*