Lesson 11: Dylan Thomas’ life in Laugharne

Worksheets

Task 1 – Speaking and vocabulary

Work in pairs. Make a list of words and expressions you could use to describe the house and the landscape in the image below.

Task 2 – Vocabulary

Work in small groups. Use a dictionary and check the meaning and the pronunciation of the following words:

1. Estuary ...................................................................................................................................................
2. Muse ...........................................................................................................................................
3. Abiding .......................................................................................................................................  
4. Imagery ...........................................................................................................................................
5. Metaphor .......................................................................................................................................
6. Fluidity ................................................................................................................................................
7. Cottage ..............................................................................................................................................
8. Balmy ..............................................................................................................................................
9. Barmy ................................................................................................................................................
10. Shed ..................................................................................................................................................
11. Characters ......................................................................................................................................
12. Conviviality ....................................................................................................................................
Task 3 – Listening

Watch a video about Dylan Thomas’ life in Laugharne. Write T (true) or F (false), according to the information given by the speakers in the video.

a) Dylan Thomas could only write when he was in Laugharne. (      )
b) The estuary is also a metaphor, because it’s not a river, it’s not the sea; it’s a kind of in-between land. The estuary was his muse. (      )
c) Dylan Thomas’ abiding affection for Laugharne passed into his poetry. (      )
d) Dylan Thomas’ first house in Laugharne was The Boathouse. (      )
e) His first son was born in Laugharne. (      )
f) Living in The Boathouse, Dylan Thomas had access to the sea, the garden and to his writing shed. (      )
g) His parents came to live with them in The Boathouse. (      )
h) His wife used to lock him in the writing shed for about four hours a day. (      )
i) Dylan Thomas’ international reputation grew and he had no more concerns about money. (      )
j) He used the atmosphere and the conviviality of the pub to create his characters and his stories. (      )

Now watch the video again and note down as much extra information as you can about the places associated with Dylan Thomas in Laugharne.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eros Cottage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea View House</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Boathouse</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Pelican</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Brown’s Hotel</td>
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</tbody>
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Task 4 – Speaking  Discuss the following questions in pairs or small groups.

- Why do you think Dylan Thomas chose Laugharne to live in?
- If you were a writer, what kind of place would probably inspire you the most?
- James Clarke mentions that Dylan Thomas was very popular in America. In your opinion, why do most writers and artists still feel they have to go to the US?
Task 5 – Writing

This is a picture of the interior of Dylan Thomas’ writing shed. Write a description of the place.

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Task 6 – Speaking

Discuss the following questions in pairs or small groups.

- Dylan Thomas had a special room to do his writing. Do you think it is important to have your own place to write and study?
- Where do you do your study and your homework? Can you describe it?

Homework

If possible, take a picture of the room where you usually study. Write a description of it including the landscape you see through the window, if there is one. Bring your description and the picture to your next lesson.

Materials by Chris Lima