Lesson 5: Season Poems
Worksheets

Task 1 – Speaking

- Are there differences between seasons in your country?
- What is your favourite season? Why?
- In which season is your birthday?

Task 2 - Vocabulary

Work in groups of four. Look at the picture about and make a list of as many words as you can to associate with each season. Share your list with the other members of your group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autumn</th>
<th>Winter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Task 3 - Reading and listening

Listen to Dylan Thomas’ poem *Here in this spring*. Do any of the words in your vocabulary box from Task 2 appear in the poem? If so, circle or highlight them.

Now listen to the poem again and fill in the gaps.

**Here in this spring**

Here in this (1)............... stars float along the void;
Here in this ornamental (2) .................
Down pelts the naked weather;
This (3)...................... buries a spring bird.

Symbols are selected from the (4).........................’
Slow (5) ....................... of four seasons’ coasts,
In (6)......................... teach three seasons’ fires
And four birds’ notes.

I should tell summer from the (7)........................., the worms
Tell, if at all, the winter’s (8)......................
Or the funeral of the (9).........................;
I should learn spring by the cuckooing,
And the slug should teach me destruction.

A worm tells summer better than the (10).........................,
The slug’s a living calendar of (11).........................;
What shall it tell me if a (12)......................... insect
Says the world wears away?


Task 4 – Reading and speaking

Read the poem again more carefully now paying attention to the relationships between words and images. Discuss the questions below in pairs or small groups. Write your answers below.

1. What is the main theme linking the missing words above?

2. What ideas do the words *star* and *sun* bring to you?

3. What ideas do the words *worm* and *slug* bring to you?

4. Why does the poet use these conflicting words in the same poem?
Task 5 – Listening and reading

Dylan Thomas’ birthday was in October, which is autumn in the UK. Listen to Poem in October and number the stanzas in the correct order.

Poem in October

(1) It was my thirtieth year to heaven
Woke to my hearing from harbour and neighbour wood
And the mussel pooled and the heron
Priested shore
The morning beckon
With water praying and call of seagull and rook
And the knock of sailing boats on the net webbed wall
Myself to set foot
That second
In the still sleeping town and set forth.

( ) And there could I marvel my birthday
Away but the weather turned around. And the true
Joy of the long dead child sang burning
In the sun.
It was my thirtieth
Year to heaven stood there then in the summer noon
Though the town below lay leaved with October blood.
O may my heart’s truth
Still be sung
On this high hill in a year’s turning.

( ) A springful of larks in a rolling
Cloud and the roadside bushes brimming with whistling
Blackbirds and the sun of October
Summery
On the hill’s shoulder,
Here were fond climates and sweet singers suddenly
Come in the morning where I wandered and listened
To the rain wringing
Wind blow cold
In the wood faraway under me.

( ) It turned away from the blithe country
And down the other air and the blue altered sky
Streamed again a wonder of summer
With apples
Pears and red currants
And I saw in the turning so clearly a child’s
Forgotten mornings when he walked with his mother
Through the parables
Of sun light
And the legends of the green chapels

( ) Pale rain over the dwindling harbour
And over the sea wet church the size of a snail
With its horns through mist and the castle
Brown as owls
But all the gardens
Of spring and summer were blooming in the tall tales
Beyond the border and under the lark full cloud.
There could I marvel
My birthday
Away but the weather turned around.

( ) And the twice told fields of infancy
That his tears burned my cheeks and his heart moved in mine.
These were the woods the river and sea
Where a boy
In the listening
Summertime of the dead whispered the truth of his joy
To the trees and the stones and the fish in the tide.
And the mystery
Sang alive
Still in the water and singing birds.

As in many Dylan Thomas poems, there is a close association between nature and the passing of time.

Read the poem again at home and see if you can identify how the poet creates this connection.

Task 6 – Language work
Read the text again, analyse the language and complete the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verbs in -ing form</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjectives with -ing suffix</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nouns ending in -ing</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Task 7 - Speaking
- What do you usually do on your birthday?
- If you went walking on your birthday, where would you like to go?
- Would you go alone or would you take someone with you?

Homework
This is a piece of creative writing:
- Write a poem (at least four stanzas) or a short story (300 - 350 words) about someone’s birthday
- *Use some of the language you studied in this lesson.*
- Post your writing to your class blog or bring it in to your next class.

*Materials by Chris Lima*