Lesson 4:  *Under Milk Wood*

Worksheets

Task 1 – Speaking

Work in pairs. Look at the picture below.

- What kind of place is it? Could it be located in your country? Why (not)?
- Have you ever been to a similar place?
- Would you like to live in a place like this? Why (not)?

Task 2 – Vocabulary

Work in pairs. Think of as many words as you can to describe the picture. Write the words in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Things you can see</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weather</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The atmosphere</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Task 3 – Writing

Use the words from the table to write a description of the picture. Read your paragraph to your partner.

Dylan Thomas’ radio play *Under Milk Wood* starts with the description of a fishing village in Wales that could be quite similar to the one in the picture above.

Task 4 – Reading

Read an article about *Under Milk Wood* and answer True or False.

1. The original title of Under Milk Wood was ‘A Play for Voices.’ (   )
2. Dylan Thomas wrote the play in 1949. (   )
3. The dramatic effect of the play is derived from the use of repetition of sounds, figures of speech and other poetic devices. (   )
4. Thomas creatively combines words to describe places and make powerful images. (   )
5. *Under Milk Wood* is a tragic play that deals with life and death. (   )
6. The play reflects Dylan Thomas’ perception of the war as the event that marked humanity’s loss of innocence and attempts to recreate it. (   )
Task 5 – Reading and listening

Listen to the opening paragraphs of Dylan Thomas’ *Under Milk Wood* and fill in the missing words.

To begin at the beginning:

It is spring, 1.................night in the small town, 2.................. and bible-black, the cobblestreets 3......... and the hunched, courters’-and-rabbits’ wood limping 4..............
down to the sloeblack, slow, black, crowblack, fishingboat-bobbing sea. The houses are 5................ as moles (though moles see fine tonight in the snouting, 6.................
dingles) or blind as Captain Cat there in the 7................ middle by the pump and the town clock, the shops in mourning, the Welfare Hall in widows' weeds. And all the people of the lulled and 8................... town are sleeping now.

Hush, the babies are sleeping, the farmers, the fishers, the tradesmen and pensioners, cobbler, schoolteacher, postman and publican, the undertaker and the 9............... woman, drunkard, dressmaker, preacher, policeman, the webfoot cocklewomen and the 10............... wives. Young girls lie bedded 11............... or glide in their dreams, with rings and trousseaux, bridesmaided by glow-worms down the aisles of the 12............... wood. The boys are dreaming 13............... or of the bucking ranches of the night and the jolly, rodgered sea. And the anthracite statues of the horses sleep in the fields, and the cows in the byres, and the dogs in the 14................. yards; and the cats nap in the 15............... corners or lope sly, streaking and needling, on the one cloud of the roofs.

You can hear the dew falling, and the 16............... town breathing.

Only your eyes are 17............... to see the black and folded town 18........., and 19............... 20..................
Task 7 - Language work

Look at the adjectives in Task 6. Which words could have **opposites**? Write some of them in the box below.

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Task 8 - Speaking

- If you were to write a play or poem about a specific city or town, which one would you choose? Why?
- What things would you include in your writing?
- Who would be the characters in it?

Homework

- Choose a city or town
- Find an interesting picture of it
- Write a poem or prose description of it
- Use some of the language you studied in this lesson.
- Post your description and picture to your class blog or bring it into the next class.

*Materials by Chris Lima*