

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).

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

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Do you know the meaning of the words and phrases in the table?

Use your dictionary and take some notes below.

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

(1)
.....
About the lilting house and happy as the
grass was green,
(2)
Time let me hail and climb
Golden in the heydays of his eyes,
(3)
.....
And once below a time I lordly had the trees
and leaves
Trail with daisies and barley
Down the rivers of the windfall light.

(4)
.....
About the happy yard and singing as the
farm was home,
(5)
Time let me play and be
Golden in the mercy of his means,
And green and golden I was huntsman and
herdsman, the calves
Sang to my horn, the foxes on the hills
barked clear and cold,
And the sabbath rang slowly
In the pebbles of the holy streams.

(6)
it was lovely, the hay
Fields high as the house, the tunes from the
chimneys, it was air
And playing, lovely and watery
And fire green as grass.
(7)
As I rode to sleep the owls were bearing the
farm away,
All the moon long I heard, blessed among
stables, the nightjars
Flying with the ricks, and the horses
Flashing into the dark.

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
(8)
So it must have been after the birth of the
simple light
In the first, spinning place, the spellbound
horses walking warm
(9)
On to the fields of praise.

And honoured among foxes and pheasants by
the gay house
(10).....
.....
In the sun born over and over,
I ran my heedless ways,
(11)
.....
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,
(12)
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:

Colour	
Natural landscape	
Animals	
Farm life	
Passing time	
Spiritual life/religious connotations	

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.