

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.

	“He starts <i>Under Milk Wood</i> at the age of seventeen. He doesn’t finish it... well he doesn’t <i>finish</i> it...but he gets to the end of it at the age of 39.”
	“It was here in London, during the war, that he began to find fresh impetus for the project.”
	The place “is preserved in this kind of pure stasis of happiness, almost a heaven in West Wales.”
1	“Everyone everywhere can identify with this image, this picture, of small town seaside life.”
	“From the violation that the war constituted, he developed a pastoral sense of the green planet, of the green world.”
	“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.”

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.

image	
town	
logic	
war	



Laugharne, Wales. Image: Electrofilm

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.

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