



## ACTIVITY – LISTENING COMPREHENSION

### BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_PN3dnkYOos](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_PN3dnkYOos)

Vernon Davies was in school with Dylan Thomas in Swansea in the 1920's and 30's. You are going to hear him reminiscing about those days and about Dylan Thomas, the Swansea boy who grew up to be one of the most famous poets of the 20th century.

This is going to be a test of how well you can listen and recall. You will only hear the interview once.

Listen to the Vernon Davies interview in English.

Following the interview, ask the pupils the following questions. They make a note of their answer, and at the end will peer mark each other's papers.

1. What kind of boy was Dylan Thomas according to Vernon Davies? (happy, easy going, friendly, on good terms with everybody)
2. What was Dylan's father's job? (Senior English Master)
3. What were his father's initials? (D.J.)
4. Name two of Dylan's interests. (Little Theatre in the Mumbles, literary things, English)
5. What were Vernon Davies' interests? (swimming, cycling, motorbikes)
6. What was Dylan Thomas's job on the school magazine? (editor)
7. Name three things the boys discussed in their free lessons (putting the world in order, the staff, other boys, girls, sport, making limericks, having fun)
8. Was Dylan Thomas interested in sport such as cycling?(No)
9. Where did the Swansea children go to play in the summer? (the Gower)

Imagine you are over 90 years old, like Vernon Davies, and being interviewed looking back at your school days. Write how you would describe yourself and one of your friends. Think about how you knew them, what you knew about them, what they looked like, what their interests were. Also include a little about yourself and how you were in school...be honest!

Include the interviewer's questions if you like.

Record your interview and play it back to the class!

**FURTHER WORK: Conduct interviews with older members of the community to discover what school life was like in the '30's. Use this as the basis for work on how older members of the community are perceived.**