



KS3 More about his work

Reading Text 1 – Transcript of an extract of an interview with Hannah Ellis

What I love about Dylan Thomas's work, the secret piece of fun in his work, really, is that he plays with words; he experiments with them. He doesn't see them as one word meaning one thing. So, he swaps words around, he finds ways that they rhyme; he uses alliteration to have a lovely sort of bounce to his words. He had a book as well, he called it his 'Doomsday Book', and it was his book where he would just have one word and find as many different ways to rhyme those words, have different ways to turn them backwards or make words out of one word, and I just think: we can have so much fun with language – it's not stilted, it's not boring, and he knew that...

He must have been writing all the time, all the time. He had little cigarette packets and he used to write notes on the back of them for ideas, everywhere he went. It was like words were his food, that's the way I think of it, and his inspiration was all around him. If he saw the sea, it gave him an idea for a description, if he saw someone behaving in a certain way, he'd be noting it down – everything. If somebody told him an episode that had happened a few weeks earlier in the bar, he would be writing it down – everything was fuel for his writing.

READING COMPREHENSION

1. What does Hannah Ellis love about Dylan Thomas's work? Choose **one** answer.
 - a. He plays with books.
 - b. He plays with words.
 - c. He plays with fun.
2. What techniques **does Hannah Ellis mention** that Dylan Thomas uses in his work? Choose **three** answers.
 - a. comparisons
 - b. alliteration
 - c. metaphors
 - d. personification
 - e. rhyme
 - f. onomatopoeia
 - g. changing the order of words



3. What has Hannah Ellis realised from the way Dylan Thomas wrote poetry?
Choose **one** answer.
 - a. She has realised that language isn't fun.
 - b. She has realised that language isn't useful.
 - c. She has realised that language isn't boring.

4. How did Dylan Thomas spend his time, according to Hannah Ellis? Choose **one** answer.
 - a. He thought about food.
 - b. He thought about his writing.
 - c. He thought about the sea.

5. What kind of things inspired Dylan Thomas, according to Hannah Ellis? Choose **three** answers.
 - a. He was inspired by the food he ate.
 - b. He was inspired by the stories people told him.
 - c. He was inspired by music.
 - d. He was inspired by his surroundings.
 - e. He was inspired by the people he saw.
 - f. He was inspired by other poets' work.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. From the extract of Hannah Ellis's interview, what **two** tips would be useful for a writer?
2. What impression do you get of Dylan Thomas from this extract?
3. How would you complete this sentence?

After reading Hannah Ellis's interview about Dylan Thomas, I have come to the conclusion that to succeed in any field, you have to be

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Links to the Literacy Framework:

Reading

Responding to what has been read Comprehension (Year 7 – 9)

- read with concentration texts... that are new to them, and understand the information in them
- select the main points from texts and identify how information and evidence are used to support them