



DYLAN THOMAS

ROCK AND ROLL POET - KS3

Activity title:	The language of reviews – positive and negative lexis
Description:	Looking at reviewers' language, and using a reading recommendation website to identify the different ways readers have responded to Dylan Thomas' work.
Year groups:	KS3 – year 8+
Link to LNF:	<p>ORACY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• present topics and ideas coherently, using techniques effectively• respond positively and thoughtfully to new ideas and alternative points of view• discuss opposing viewpoints and negotiate ways forward <p>READING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• use a range of strategies, <i>e.g. speed reading, close reading, annotation, prediction</i>, to skim texts for gist, key ideas and themes, and scan for detailed information• be selective about which internet sources to download or quote depending on their reliability and relevance• read with concentration texts, on-screen and on paper, that are new to them, and understand the information in them• use inference and deduction to understand layers of meaning• identify different views of a topic and any areas of agreement and contradiction• evaluate texts in terms of quality and level of interest. <p>WRITING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• adapt presentation of material according to intended meaning and effect, <i>e.g. choice of how much detail needed to be convincing</i>• in planning writing make choices about content, structure, language, presentation to suit the purpose• use criteria to identify ways to improve and then redraft• select, analyse and present ideas and information convincingly or objectively• organise longer pieces of writing making links within and between paragraphs• write with grammatical accuracy, varying the length and structure of sentences to make meaning clear• use the full range of punctuation in order to clarify meaning, <i>e.g. semicolons, colons, quotation marks</i>• use a variety of strategies and resources to spell familiar and unfamiliar vocabulary and subject-specific words correctly• produce fluent and legible handwriting
Dylan Thomas Text:	'Under Milk Wood' or 'A Child's Christmas in Wales' are both useful texts to use in a search for reviews, and may be used following other lessons on these texts.



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Resources required:	<p>Access to the website www.goodreads.com</p> <p>Listen to Gillian Clarke, National Poet of Wales, discussing the importance of reading poetry, as an extension listening activity to highlight the importance of reading in general.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nD595bMtZOQ</p>
Suggested teaching sequence:	<p>Class discussion about reviews in general – where can they be found, what purpose do they serve, how reliable are they, do we need them at all?</p> <p>Read sample reviews of Dylan Thomas' work.</p> <p>Introduce the terms positive and negative lexis to describe the use of language used to present a viewpoint. Learners highlight the use of positive and negative lexis in the sample reviews.</p> <p>Introduce www.goodreads.com as a website which can help with reading choices.</p> <p>Learners use the site to search readers' comments on any Dylan Thomas text – for example, 'Under Milk Wood', 'A Child's Christmas in Wales', 'Quite Early One Morning'.</p> <p>From their browsing, they complete a grid containing some of the best positive and negative lexical vocabulary or phrases they find.</p> <p>To finish, listen to Gillian Clarke discussing the importance of reading.</p>
Extension activities:	<p>Learners write their own review of a favourite or least favourite book, or a response suitable for posting on a website such as goodreads.</p> <p>Create an inspirational display or poster based on their research into a book, making use of their favourite quotations from reviewers.</p>
Modifying for other age groups:	<p>To make the process of browsing goodreads easier, limit the number of reviews read to no more than 6, or download in advance a balance of 6 reviews which are at a suitable level for the reading age of the learners.</p>