

Extract from 'Fern Hill' by Dylan Thomas

Here are the first eight haunting lines from 'Fern Hill', a poem by Dylan Thomas.

Now as I was young and easy under the apple boughs
 About the lilting house and happy as the grass was green,
 The night above the dingle starry,
 Time let me hail and climb
 Golden in the heydays of his eyes,
 And honoured among wagons I was prince of the apple towns
 And once below a time I lordly had the trees and leaves
 Trail with daisies and barley
 Down the rivers of the windfall light.

Teachers use the grid below to help your pupils explore the words of Dylan Thomas. Pairs of children can work together, using enlarged version of our grid, to explore the words of Dylan Thomas and make their own poems by mixing up words from one of his most famous poems. Click on the grid to get a printable pdf version.

Poetry challenge: can you include any poetic techniques in these lines, such as alliteration, assonance, rhyme or repetition?

And try this: find one word you like. Find another word to go with it. When you have built several phrases like this, try putting them together. Keep reading aloud with your partner and changing the order until you think it sounds interesting or paints a picture.

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About	the	lilting	house	and	happy	as	the	grass	was	green,	
The	night	above	the	dingle	starry,						
Time	let	me	hail	and	climb						
Golden	in	the	heydays	of	his	eyes,					
And	honoured	among	wagons	I	was	prince	of	the	apple	towns	
And	once	below	a	time	I	lordly	had	the	trees	and	leaves
Trail	with	daisies	and	barley							
Down	the	rivers	of	the	windfall	light.					

