

HUMANITIES — WELSH CULTURE / LITERATURE · YEAR 5–6

Dylan Thomas — Bardd Cymru

Years 5–6 Humanities

Dylan Thomas — key facts

1

Dylan Thomas (1914–1953)

Born in Swansea, south Wales. One of the greatest Welsh-language writers... who wrote in English. His father was an English-medium teacher who deliberately did not teach Dylan Welsh. He wrote extraordinary poetry and prose in English.

2

Swansea and Laugharne

Thomas's two key places. Swansea: his childhood ('an ugly, lovely town'), where he grew up in the Uplands. Laugharne (Talacharn), Carmarthenshire: where he lived his last years, wrote *Under Milk Wood*, and is buried.

3

Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night

A villanelle (19-line poem with a strict repeating structure) written as his father was dying. 'Rage, rage against the dying of the light.' One of the most anthologised poems in the English language.

4

A Child's Christmas in Wales

A prose poem describing a Welsh boy's Christmas in Swansea — full of humour, warmth, and precise sensory detail. Broadcast by the BBC and still read at Christmas.

5

Under Milk Wood

A radio drama (1953 — first broadcast the year of his death) set in a fictional Welsh coastal village, Llareggub (read backwards). Voices of the village through a single spring day. A masterpiece of the spoken English language.



6

Legacy

The Boathouse in Laugharne is preserved as a museum. The Dylan Thomas Centre is in Swansea. He inspired countless writers — including Bob Dylan (who took his name from Dylan Thomas). A global icon of Welsh writing in English.

