



Course details

Course title

Literature: Christmas with Dylan Thomas

Course code

Q00019847

Course date

Start: 14/12/24

End: 14/12/24

Number of classes

1 sessions

Timetable

Sat 14th Dec, 10:00 to 12:00

Tutor

Stephen Smith

Fee range

Free to £7.40

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes online in video meetings and materials will be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

Online

Venue

Online

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

This course will explore the enduringly popular Welsh poet and writer, Dylan Thomas' radio broadcast 'A Child's Christmas in Wales.' The session will introduce Thomas' life, his memories of Swansea Christmases, and the extravagance of his style and the vividness of his recreation of a child's Christmas before the Second World War. Whether one knows the work of Dylan Thomas or not, the course will introduce you to a unique voice, which is accessible and urgent and will unlock your own memories of past Christmases. The course will provoke lively discussions and the sharing of thoughts and memories as we examine the work.

Course description

The course will begin by exploring Dylan Thomas' childhood and the origins of the radio broadcast in the context of his relationship with the BBC at the conclusion of the Second World War, when the BBC was eager to broadcast 'feel good' subject matter to a weary population, still existing under rationing. The session will also examine the narrative voice of the broadcast, and Thomas' unique style of radio address, particularly the poetic nature of his prose. By analysing these elements, we will be able to recognise why the piece is memorable, and is still able to communicate powerfully with contemporary audiences. In our analysis, we will discover the manner in which Thomas creates a vividness, if hyperbolic vision of pre-war childhood Christmases through the use of poetic devices, such as alliteration, assonance, repetition, and metaphorical flourishes, all of which create a timeless and dream-like quality, that remains powerful because it communicates with you, the listener or reader on a deeply sensuous level, and as it does, provokes you into your own memories. We will also discover the Welshness of the broadcast, and discuss the relationship between this broadcast and his famous play for voices, 'Under Milkwood.' The text will be provided for you on Canvas to read in advance.

What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

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