

Poetry with Mr Marshman!

Hello Year 6, hope you are all safe and well and enjoying all your daily challenges. I thought I'd take the opportunity to set you a little extra task each week from the world of English Literature. This week we are going to look in detail at a poem about Spring.

The Tasks

Task 1 – read through the poem. Get a feel for the poem. Think about what the poet is writing about. Can you spot any patterns? Can you spot any poetic techniques (metaphors, similes, alliteration, rhyme scheme, etc)?

The Enkindled Spring

By D.H. Lawrence

This spring as it comes bursts up in bonfires green,
Wild puffing of emerald trees, and flame-filled bushes,
Thorn-blossom lifting in wreaths of smoke between
Where the wood fumes up and the watery, flickering rushes.

I am amazed at this spring, this conflagration
Of green fires lit on the soil of the earth, this blaze
Of growing, and sparks that puff in wild gyration,
Faces of people streaming across my gaze.

And I, what fountain of fire am I among
This leaping combustion of spring? My spirit is tossed
About like a shadow buffeted in the throng
Of flames, a shadow that's gone astray, and is lost.

Task 2 – Dictionary task. Look the following words up in a dictionary or search their meaning on google. Write the word and the definition down. When you have the definitions of these words do they help you to understand the poem further?

1. Enkindle
2. Conflagration
3. Gyration
4. Throng
5. Astray

Task 3 – Drawing the metaphors. This poem is full of metaphors comparing spring growth to fire. I want you to choose two of these metaphors and attempt to draw the metaphors by combining the images that are created. Examples you could choose are:

- bonfires green
- Wild puffing of emerald trees
- flame-filled bushes
- green fires lit on the soil of the earth

Task 4 – Final thoughts. Write a paragraph exploring your own personal view as to why the poet has compared spring to fire. Try to use evidence from the poem (explore the impact of a quotation from the poem). Pick out a metaphor and think about the image that the poet is trying to create. This is the tricky bit so spend a bit of time thinking about it. Remember it's your own personal opinion.

Video link:

If you need further help on this, I have created a video exploring the poem and explaining the tasks and have uploaded it into the usual Y6 album.

Remember to take your time with this. There is no rush. Also, there isn't always a right answer with poetry. You will have your own interpretation of the poem and as long as you can explain your ideas that's fine. Enjoy it. Also, if you feel like it, maybe you could try and write your own poem about Spring for **Task 5**. I look forward to reading through some of your responses and thoughts on the poem.

Stay safe. See you when I see you!

Mr Marshman