

The Ancient Tree Hunt

KS3 English

Oracy/Reading: THE POETRY OF TREES

ACTIVITY 2: TEACHERS SHEET

Session aims:

This activity aims to engage students with poems by three well-known poets from English literary heritage; to practise speaking and listening for a formal, prepared presentation as well as in informal group or pair discussions; to highlight the importance of trees within our cultural heritage.

Starter

This activity aims to engage students with poems by three well-known poets from English literary heritage; to practise speaking and listening for a formal, prepared presentation as well as in informal group or pair discussions; to highlight the importance of trees within our cultural heritage.

Main

Teacher (or carefully chosen student) reads each of the poems to the class. After each poem is read, **one or more** of the following questions are asked or discussed firstly as a whole class, then in pairs, and finally in groups of four (these questions are repeated on the Student sheet):

1. Does this poem remind you of anything at all that you have ever seen or has ever happened to you?
 2. Does the poem remind you of anything you have read before?
 3. Is there anything about this poem that puzzles you, any words that you are uncertain about or anything you find curious or odd?
 4. Is there anything you like about this poem as a whole? Are there any words or phrases which you find particularly meaningful, emotive or effective?
 5. Is there anything you dislike about this poem?
 6. If you could display this poem somewhere, where would you like it to be for best effect?
 7. If you could talk to the poet, what would you ask him?
8. When you read the poem, what kind of scene do you visualize in your mind? Where do you think the poet is, within that scene?
 9. If this poem was part of a story, what kind of story would it be?
 10. If you were to choose how someone should read this poem, what kind of voice would be best? If you were to choose music to play in the background, what kind of music would you use?

Curriculum links:

NC English Programme of study, 2008:

Oracy

Skills: 1, 7

Range: 3, 4, 6, 8

Reading

Skills: 2, 3, 4, 6

Range: 1, 2, 3, 4

Other Links:

Developing Communication Skills

Developing Thinking Skills

ESD&GC

PSE

Equipment needed:

Copies of the three poems provided: 'Winter Trees' by William Carlos Williams; 'Throwing a Tree' by Thomas Hardy; 'Trees in the Garden' by D H Lawrence.

Materials for making collage, or access to computers with a program for manipulating or creating images (e.g. Clip Art could be used with Microsoft Word).

Peer or Self evaluation student sheet.

The Ancient Tree Hunt

KS3 English

Oracy/Reading: THE POETRY OF TREES

Development

Using the question sheet as a rough guide to framing their own responses, students create **pictorial** annotations/collage around one of the poems, to reflect their own interpretation of that poem. Their notes could be as simple as drawings on a hardcopy or choosing evocative images from clipart/web search to insert in the margins of an electronic copy. They could create a PowerPoint file or even a video of sights and sounds which they associate with particular lines within, or with the poem as a whole. They then present their interpretations to a partner, the teacher, or the whole class, using their pictures (not written sentences) as prompts to their talk. Teachers should encourage the students to discuss and consider the success criteria which will be used to evaluate the activity when preparing their presentations (see evaluation sheet).

Evaluation

Students fill in an evaluation sheet relating to one presentation. According to the teacher's instructions, they can fill in the sheet as self evaluation or as peer evaluation of the presentation they enjoyed most.



COED CADW
WOODLAND
TRUST

These sheets have been designed to be shared. Feel free to photocopy and provide to colleagues. The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity dedicated to the protection of our native woodland heritage. www.woodlandtrust.org.uk www.AncientTreeHunt.org.uk

The Ancient Tree Hunt

KS3 English

Oracy/Reading: THE POETRY OF TREES

ACTIVITY SHEET 2: STUDENTS SHEET

Poem 1: Winter Trees by William Carlos Williams

WINTER TREES

*All the complicated details
of the attiring and
the disattiring are completed!
A liquid moon
moves gently among
the long branches.
Thus having prepared their buds
against a sure winter
the wise trees
stand sleeping in the cold.*

William Carlos Williams
(1883-1963)



COED CADW
WOODLAND
TRUST

These sheets have been designed to be shared. Feel free to photocopy and provide to colleagues.
The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity dedicated to the protection
of our native woodland heritage. www.woodlandtrust.org.uk www.AncientTreeHunt.org.uk

The Ancient Tree Hunt

KS3 English

Oracy/Reading: THE POETRY OF TREES

ACTIVITY SHEET 2: STUDENTS SHEET

Poem 2: Trees in the Garden by D H Lawrence

Trees in the Garden

*Ah in the thunder air
how still the trees are!*

*And the lime-tree, lovely and tall, every leaf silent
hardly loses even a last breath of perfume.*

*And the ghostly, creamy-coloured little tree of leaves
white, ivory white among the rambling greens
how evanescent, variegated elder, she hesitates on the green grass
as if, in another moment, she would disappear
with all her grace of foam!*

*And the larch that is only a column, it goes up too tall to see:
and the balsam-pines that are blue with the grey-blue blueness of
things from the sea,
and the young copper beech, its leaves red-rosy at the ends
how still they are together, they stand so still
in the thunder air, all strangers to one another
as the green grass glows upwards, strangers in the silent garden.*

D H Lawrence
(1885-1930)



COED CADW
WOODLAND
TRUST

The Ancient Tree Hunt

KS3 English

Oracy/Reading: THE POETRY OF TREES

ACTIVITY SHEET 2: STUDENTS SHEET

Poem 3: Throwing a Tree by Thomas Hardy

NEW FOREST

*The two executioners stalk along over the knolls,
Bearing two axes with heavy heads shining and wide,
And a long limp two-handled saw toothed for cutting great boles,
And so they approach the proud tree that bears the death-mark on its side.*

*Jackets doffed they swing axes and chop away just above ground,
And the chips fly about and lie white on the moss and fallen leaves;
Till a broad deep gash in the bark is hewn all the way round,
And one of them tries to hook upward a rope, which at last he achieves.*

*The saw then begins, till the top of the tall giant shivers:
The shivers are seen to grow greater each cut than before:
They edge out the saw, tug the rope; but the tree only quivers,
And kneeling and sawing again, they step back to try pulling once more.*

*Then, lastly, the living mast sways, further sways: with a shout
Job and Ike rush aside. Reached the end of its long staying powers
The tree crashes downward: it shakes all its neighbours throughout,
And two hundred years' steady growth has been ended in less than two hours.*

Thomas Hardy
(1840-1928)



COED CADW
WOODLAND
TRUST

These sheets have been designed to be shared. Feel free to photocopy and provide to colleagues.
The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity dedicated to the protection
of our native woodland heritage. www.woodlandtrust.org.uk www.AncientTreeHunt.org.uk

The Ancient Tree Hunt

KS3 English

Oracy/Reading: THE POETRY OF TREES

ACTIVITY 2: STUDENTS SHEET

PERSONAL INTERPRETATION OF A POEM – reading, talking, listening

- Choose your favourite poem to re-read.
- Prepare to talk about this poem by annotating your copy of the poem with visual images which match your thoughts and feelings about the poem. You can do this by using your own drawings or sketches or by choosing images using clipart or an internet search engine. You may be able to present the poem using Powerpoint.
- You may wish to use some or all of these questions to help you think about the poem. You may think of other questions which you would rather answer.
- You will be asked to evaluate the presentations given by yourself and others and you should think about the success criteria on the evaluation sheet when preparing your presentation.

1. Does this poem remind you of anything at all that you have ever seen or has ever happened to you?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. Is there anything about this poem that puzzles you, any words you are not sure about, or anything you find curious or odd?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. Does the poem remind you of anything you have read before?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

The Ancient Tree Hunt

KS3 English

Oracy/Reading: THE POETRY OF TREES

ACTIVITY 2: STUDENTS SHEET (cont)

.....
.....
.....

.....
.....
.....

4. Is there anything you like about this poem as a whole?
Are there any words or phrases which you find particularly meaningful, emotive or effective?

6. If you could display this poem somewhere, where would you like it to be for best effect?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

5. Is there anything you dislike about this poem?

7. If you could talk to the poet, what would you ask him/her?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....



COED CADW
WOODLAND
TRUST

The Ancient Tree Hunt

KS3 English

Oracy/Reading: THE POETRY OF TREES

ACTIVITY 2: STUDENTS SHEET (cont)

.....
.....

.....
.....

8. When you read the poem, what kind of scene do you visualize in your mind? Where do you think the poet is, within that scene?

.....
.....

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

10. If you were to choose how someone should read this poem, what kind of voice would be best? If you were to choose music to play in the background, what kind of music would you use?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

9. If this poem was part of a story, what kind of story would it be?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....



The Ancient Tree Hunt

KS3 English

Personal interpretation of a poem – oracy: THE POETRY OF TREES

ACTIVITY SHEET: STUDENT SHEET

SELF EVALUATION or PEER EVALUATION (of the presentation I enjoyed most)

Title of poem:

Name of person presenting the poem:

.....

These standards were achieved (tick appropriate statements):

Confidence:

- Extremely confident and consistent
- Good
- Hesitant but improving
- Lacking confidence

Use of language, expression and tone:

- Wide variety of vocabulary and expression, keeping interest of audience
- Good range of expression
- Clear expression with some lapses
- Unclear

Other positive comments about the presentation:

.....

.....

.....

.....



COED CADW
WOODLAND
TRUST