

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter June, 2013



Dylan Thomas - Poet 1914 - 1953

Poet, playwright, actor, broadcaster, scriptwriter and storyteller - in his sadly short but eventful life, Dylan Thomas was all of these and much more.

Born in Swansea, Wales, in 1914, he left school at 16, becoming a journalist for a short time. While still a teenager it was the publication of "Light Breaks Where No Sun Shines" that caught the attention of the literary world. His other fine works include - 'Under Milk Wood' and stories and radio broadcasts such as 'A Child's Christmas in Wales' and 'Portrait of the Artist as a Young Dog'.

When living in London he met Caitlin Macnamara and over the years they had 3 children - Llewelyn Edourd Thomas (1939-2000) Aeronwy Bryn Thomas (1943-2009) and Colm Garan Hart Thomas (1949-2012) His wife died in 1953 - the year Dylan died.

Thomas and his family settled in the small fishing village of Laugharne - West Wales. The name 'Dylan' can be translated from old Celtic meaning, 'from the sea'. They lived by the help of friends and neighbours.

Touring America in the 1950s, his readings brought him fame and secured his position as one of the most important poets of the 20th century.

Although much appreciated as a popular poet in his lifetime, he found making a living very difficult.

During his fourth trip to New York in 1953 he became gravely ill and fell into a coma from which he did not recover. His body was returned to Wales where he was buried at the village church in Laugharne. The cause of death has not been fully explained! His estate in 1953 was valued at £100 pounds.

A brilliant mind, his life was too short. He was once asked if he believed in God. He replied, "I'd be a fool not to".

His view of life coincided with Christianity's, but perhaps only because Christianity offers the necessary symbols for this imagery of death-in-life and life-in-death.

His best work is a matter of individual choice - there have been so many.

Dylan Thomas appears in modern poetry with the air of a 'marvelous boy'. He knew no Welsh but he accepted the traditional role of the Welsh bard and was painted by Augustus John as wild and inspired.

He used everything and anything to make his poems work, and move in the directions he wanted them to. They consisted of old tricks, new tricks, allusion, slang, vowel rhymes, and many more.



He once said 'Every device there is in language is there to be used'. He did just that, and as a result, became one of the greatest poets of all time.

"To begin at the beginning" - the opening lines of 'Under Milk Wood'

Article by Dylan

Net News

NET LESSONS: Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS?....Try our *lessons on the Internet!*

SITE OF THE MONTH:

You can read about the life of Dylan Thomas here:

http://www.newquay-westwales.co.uk/dylan_thomas.htm

Some Thoughts for the Month



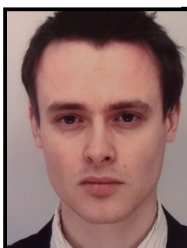
Joshua Says: Many thanks to all the “brave” people who defied the rain and came to our End-of-Semester party on the 1st. It was a quiet but very friendly event and we all had a great time – I even think some people took a liking to my Vegemite sandwiches! Also, this month we welcome two new French teachers to join us – Cyril and Stephanie. They also came to the party and you can see them in the photos on P3 here.

Junko Says: This is the start of our second semester for this year. It feels a little like a new beginning. It's the first time for us to pass the half-way mark in a year. I think this new system is working out well, what do you think? To coincide with the beginning of the second part of 2013, we welcome Matthew back from a month's break in the U.S. He has plenty of stories to tell, so why not ask him when you run into him.



Matthew Says: It is great to be back in Matsuyama and I have had a wonderful welcome from you all so I would like to thank you all for your kind words and endearments this week. The end of semester party was fantastic and it was great to see so many of you attend! We will have a BBQ party on the roof again so expect a notice soon about that one - the simple reason being - I LOVE BBQs! Have a great June!

Dylan Says: It's come to my attention recently, how famous I actually am. Well ok, not me as such, but more so my name. Look at the evidence, there's Dylan Thomas that you've already read about on the first page, and then there's the famous singer, Bob Dylan who wrote “Blowin’ In The Wind.” What a great name to have!



Cyril Dit: Bonjour Matsuyama! Je m'appelle Cyril, et je vais habiter au Japon pendant un an. La chaleur est beaucoup plus forte qu'en France, c'est donc très difficile lorsque je vais courir dans le parc du château. J'achète une bouteille de coca bien fraîche dans un distributeur au moins 2 fois par jour! (J'ai goûté le soda au melon, quelle horreur...)

NOTICE BOARD

FIRST SEMESTER PARTY - 2013



The food was great!
We had French and
Welsh cuisine as well
as Junko's "noodle
Salad" special, and, of
course delicious
Australian Vegemite
Sandwiches!



Some of the
"hardy" people
who braved the
rain to be with
us at the party



Meet Cyril and Stephanie, our
new French teachers, with Arno
their "mentor".....



A big "thanks" to all who came!

Pet's Corner

Meet Al. Al is
an Alpaca from Peru. He and his
kind are natives of South America. They
can be found throughout the Andes, including
Bolivia and Ecuador as well as Peru.

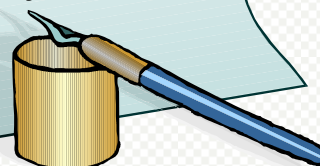


Al when he's not surfing



Al, though, is special. He
loves to surf with his buddy,
Jose (see photo). He is a very
practical pet, too. When his
coat gets too long, Jose cuts it
off and sells the wool to pay
for Al's food bills. A perfect
relationship, don't you think?

A THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH
Wisdom grows from 10%
of what you see and read
about and 90% from what
you do with the knowledge
you gain.



Don't forget... Our SPECIAL 1+1 Campaign offer! Up to 50% off!!

See our notice board, or ask Junko in our office, for the details.