Wester Hailes – English Department S1 Home Learning Materials

Week beginning 22nd February 2021

Please complete the tasks in the booklet over the course of the next 2 school weeks. You can answer on paper/computer/tablet.

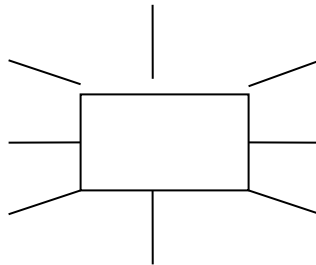 E-mail a picture to your teacher when you are finished for marking:

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S1 HOME LEARNING – POETRY UNIT PART ONE

We are learning to recognise some of the main techniques used in poetry and elsewhere in English.

Ghosts in our Suburban Homes by Jan Dean

Take a few minutes to write down all the things that the word 'Ghosts' makes your think of.

A poet has to tell his or her story in very few words. This is a difficult thing to do. To help him/her, the poet has a special 'bag of tricks' called **'techniques'** which can help him. In class, you should already have discussed the different techniques poets use.

Match the name of the techique below to the correct definition.

Simile   This is when two or three words which are in the

                                              same sentence or line begin with the same letter

                                              or sound.
                                              eg. The silent snake slid under the stone.

Metaphor using *like*	This is a comparison between two things or *as*.
	eg. She runs **as** fast **as** a cheetah.

Alliteration like its action	This is when a word actually sounds when it is read aloud.
	eg. Crash, bang, sizzle, whisper.

Onomatopoeia something else.	This says that one thing is actually
	eg. My teacher **is a dragon**.

Now read the poem.

Ghosts in our Suburban Homes by Jan Dean

The creaking of a wicker chair
When something unseen settles there
It's ghosts, ss, ss, ss,
It's ghosts.

Mad wardrobes swinging in the night,
A flicker at the edge of sight,
It's ghosts, ss, ss, ss,
It's ghosts!

The rocker rocks. The curtains sigh.
Out of the corner of your eye
The solid darkness passes by – it's ghosts!

They spread themselves along the wall,
Shadows with shadows haunt the hall,
A great grey silent waterfall
Of ghosts!

Come midnight watch the stair-
Tread sink with no foot there.
It's ghosts, ss, ss, ss,
It's ghosts.
A thousand thousand whispering souls
Mass quietly behind small holes.
A million slither through the cracks
Behind the door, behind our backs,
Insinuating white as wax
Are ghosts!

And in the silence of the moon,
The silver silence of the moon,
The ghosts release a silent tune
To rise like steam from some sad tomb.
The soundless song of frozen skies,
The ice of unsung lullabies,
Wordless as the frosted eyes
Of ghosts.

Ghosts in our suburban homes.
Ghosts in our suburban homes.
Ghosts, ss, ss, ss,
Ghosts.

Look closely at the poem and try to find as many examples of each technique as you can. Note your examples in the boxes below.

Simile

Metaphor

Alliteration

Onomatopoeia

Look over all of the examples you have found of each technique. In your group, choose your favourite example of each technique. Remember to write an explanation of why you have chosen this particular example.

My Favourite Simile

Explanation

My Favourite Metaphor

Explanation

My Favourite Example of Alliteration

Explanation

My Favourite Example of Onomatopoeia

Explanation

Try to answer the following questions about the poem.

1. Why do you think the woman in the poem might not want the ghosts in her house?

_____
_____

2. She repeats the line 'It's ghosts, ss, ss, ss' several times in the poem. Why do you think she does this?

_____
_____

3. What time do the ghosts normally appear in the woman's house?

_____
_____

4. Write down two words from the poem that we normally associate with this time.

5. Ghosts often make us think about death. Can you find two words in this poem that we would normally associate with death?

6. Does the poem rhyme? _____ Does every line rhyme? _____

    Why do you think Jan Dean has chosen to write her poem this way?

_____
_____

7. How do you think you would feel if you were in the woman's position and lived in a house that was haunted? Give a reason for your answer.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Draw your favourite image from the poem.

Part two of this poetry unit involves looking at another ghost poem – this time it is one written many years ago by a poet called Thomas Hardy.