

# Puspa Shrestha

Best Quality Resource Site for Class 11 And 12 Students  
(Based on Updated Curriculum 2077)

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**Before reading**

Answer the following questions.

- Why do people offer prayers to the God?
- What do you feel when you visit the mosque, temple, or church? Why do you feel so?

Born in Swansea, Wales, **Dylan Thomas** (1914-1953) is famous for his acutely lyrical and emotional poetry. Thomas can be seen as an extension into the 20<sup>th</sup> century of the general movement called Romanticism, that flourished in the nineteenth century England, particularly in its emphasis on imagination, emotion, intuition, spontaneity, and organic form. Considered to be one of the greatest Welsh poets of all time, Thomas is largely known for his imaginative use of language and vivid imagery in his poems. He started working for BBC in 1945. *Under Milk Wood* (1953), a radio play, was written over a long period of time during the last months of his life. It is set in a small Welsh town called Llareggub and covers one day in the lives of its provincial characters.



“Every Morning I Wake” is an extract from *Under the Milk Wood*. In this poem, Thomas prays to the magnificent God to have mercy on ordinary inhabitants living under the Milk Wood.

Every morning when I wake,  
 Dear Lord, a little prayer I make,  
 O please do keep Thy loving eye  
 On all poor creatures born to die  
  
 And every evening at sun-down  
 I ask a blessing on the town,  
 For whether we last the night or no  
 I'm sure is always touch-and-go.

We are not wholly bad or good  
Who live our lives under Milk Wood,  
And Thou, I know, wilt be the first  
To see our best side, not our worst.

O let us see another day!  
Bless us all this night, I pray,  
And to the sun we all will bow  
And say, good-bye – but just for now!

## **Glossary**

Milk Wood (adj.): a wooded area in the hills above a Welsh seaside village of Llaggerub in Dylan Thomas' play *Under Milk Wood*

## **Understanding the text**

**Answer the following questions.**

- When does the speaker pray to the Lord?
- What does the speaker pray for?
- Who are the 'poor creatures'? Why does the speaker call them 'poor creatures'?
- What does Milk Wood sound like? A type of wood or a place? Why?
- Why do the inhabitants of Milk Wood bow to the setting sun 'but just for now'?

## **Reference to the context**

- Discuss "Every Morning When I Wake" as a prayer to the God.
- Why does the speaker make a prayer to the God, but not to a king, a billionaire or a scientist?
- How does the poet highlight the magnificence of the God?
- How does the rhyme scheme of the poem reinforce its message?

## **Reference beyond the text**

- Does the God exist? Give your opinion.
- In his Epistle to the author of the book, *The Three Impostors* (1768), Voltaire says, "Even if the God didn't exist, it would be necessary to invent him." Write an essay highlighting the importance of the God in the society.