

A Refusal to Mourn the Death by Fire of a Child in London

Summary

Writer: Dylan Thomas | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Summary

The poem **"A Refusal to Mourn the Death, by Fire, of a Child in London"** was written during World War II. It is about a small girl who died in the bombing of London. The poet says he will not cry or mourn in the usual way.

In the first part, he says life and nature will continue. Death is a natural part of life. So, we should not see it as something strange or fearful.

In the second part, the poet feels everything in nature is connected — man, water, and plants. He thinks silence is a better way to show respect than crying or writing sad poems.

In the third part, he says he will not dishonour the child's death with empty words. Real honour comes from peace and acceptance.

In the last part, the dead child becomes one with nature. The poet calls her "London's daughter." The final line means — after one death, there is no more death, because the soul becomes eternal.