

# LITERATURE – 3A

## START THINKING ...

### 1 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- When you are sad, what do you do to try to cheer yourself up?
- How do you feel when other people are upset?
- Do you prefer to hide your emotions or show them? Why?

## POEMS

(1850–1919) Ella Wheeler Wilcox

### I Told You

- I told you the winter would go, love,  
I told you the winter would go,  
That he'd flee in shame when the south wind came,  
And you smiled when I told you so.
- 5 You said the blustering fellow  
Would never **yield** to a breeze,  
That his cold, icy breath had frozen to death  
The flowers, the birds, and trees.
- And I told you the snow would melt, love,
- 10 In the passionate glance o' the sun;  
And the leaves o' the trees, and the flowers and bees,  
Would come back again, one by one.  
That the great, gray clouds would vanish,  
And the sky turn tender and blue;
- 15 And the sweet birds would sing, and talk of the spring  
And, love, it has all come true.
- I told you that **sorrow** would fade, love,  
And you would forget half your pain;  
That the sweet bird of song would waken ere long,
- 20 And sing in your bosom again;  
That hope would **creep** out of the shadows,  
And back to its nest in your heart,  
And gladness would come, and find its old home,  
And that sorrow at length would depart.
- 25 I told you that **grief** seldom killed, love,  
Though the heart might seem dead for awhile.  
But the world is so bright, and full of warm light  
That 'twould waken at length, in its smile.  
Ah, love! was I not a true **prophet**?
- 30 There's a sweet happy smile on your face;  
Your sadness has flown – the snow-drift is gone,  
And the buttercups bloom in its place.

## Solitude

- Laugh, and the world laughs with you;  
**Weep**, and you weep alone;  
For the sad old earth must borrow its mirth,  
But has trouble enough of its own.
- 5 Sing, and the hills will answer;  
Sigh, it is lost in the air;  
The echoes bound to a joyful sound,  
But shrink from voicing care.
- Rejoice**, and men will seek you;  
10 Grieve, and they turn and go;  
They want full measure of all your pleasure,  
But they do not need your **woe**.  
Be glad, and your friends are many;  
Be sad, and you lose them all, –
- 15 There are none to decline your nectared wine,  
But alone you must drink life's gall.  
**Feast**, and your halls are crowded;  
Fast, and the world goes by.  
Succeed and give, and it helps you live,
- 20 But no man can help you die.  
There is room in the halls of pleasure  
For a long and lordly train,  
But one by one we must all **file** on  
Through the narrow aisles of pain.

## Glossary

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ a person who is believed to have a special power that allows them to say what will happen in the future
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ to walk in a line, one behind another
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ a feeling of great sadness
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ to give up the control of or responsibility for something, often because you have been forced to
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ extreme sadness
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ very great sadness, especially at the death of someone
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ cry tears
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ to move slowly, quietly, and carefully, usually in order to avoid being noticed
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ to eat a large amount of food
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ to feel or show great happiness about something

- 2 **▶▶3A.1** Read the poems and listen.
- 3 Match the words in bold to the definitions to form a glossary.
- 4 Read the poems again. Which poem ....
- claims to have predicted how the reader would feel?
  - uses spring to represent optimism?
  - claims that if you stay positive, you'll have more friends?
  - describes the Earth as a person?
  - talks directly to the reader?
  - compares being positive to having lots of food?
- 5 **READ BETWEEN THE LINES** Answer the questions. Give reasons and examples from the text.
- What do you think has happened to the person the poet is talking to in *I Told You*?
  - What are the three sets of opposites in the first two lines of each verse in *Solitude*? Discuss how they are used.
  - In what way are the poems similar?
- 6 **VOCABULARY** Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words from the glossary.
- In Europe, the custom of wearing black to express \_\_\_\_\_ during a period of mourning dates back to the Roman Empire.
  - Soldiers learn how to \_\_\_\_\_ up on the enemy without making a noise.
  - When an important person dies, people can \_\_\_\_\_ past the body and sign a book, light a candle or lay flowers.
  - During the funeral of Princess Diana, people \_\_\_\_\_ even though they didn't know her.
  - People \_\_\_\_\_ in the streets when London was awarded the 2012 Olympic Games.
  - At celebrations like weddings, people \_\_\_\_\_ on special food.
- 7 Underline five words in the text that are new to you. Look them up in a dictionary and then write each of them in a sentence.
- 8 **ROLE PLAY** Work in groups of two. Student A is a journalist and Student B is Ella Wheeler Wilcox. Read the beginning of the conversation and then continue it with your own ideas.
- JOURNALIST Your poem, *I Told You*, made me cry. What were you thinking about when you wrote it?

- 9 **LISTENING** **▶▶3A.2** Listen to an extract in which two students, Charles and Jane, discuss the two poems. Write A (*I Told You*), B (*Solitude*) or C (Neither).
- Charles's favourite poem is .
  - In  the poet is talking to a larger audience.
  - Flowers and trees are negative symbols in .
  - Charles talks about imagery in .
  - Jane says that  is negative.
- 10 **LISTENING** **▶▶3A.2** Listen again. Answer the questions.
- How does Jane summarise the poems at the beginning?
  - What two things does *Solitude* do?
  - According to Charles, which four symbols are negative in *I Told You*?
  - What does Jane think might be the final message of *Solitude*?
  - What three questions would Charles and Jane like to ask the poet?

## THINK STYLE

### Personification

Personification is used in poetry to give something that isn't human (objects, emotions, nature, animals, etc.) human characteristics. Here are some simple examples: *The river destroyed everything in its path. The traffic crawled along slowly. Time flies when you're having fun.*

- 11 Find examples of personification in *I Told You* and *Solitude*. How are they effective?

## WRITING A poem

- 12 **WRITING** Write a short poem about a time when you were happy (a holiday, a birthday, a celebration, etc.).
- Think about how many verses you would like to include. Make sure each verse has a slightly different theme.
  - Try to use personification, symbols and imagery. What symbols are positive?
  - Make sure there's a similarity in each verse. For example, the first or last line could be similar, or a word or expression could be included in each verse.
  - Include a 'twist' or a surprise at the end.