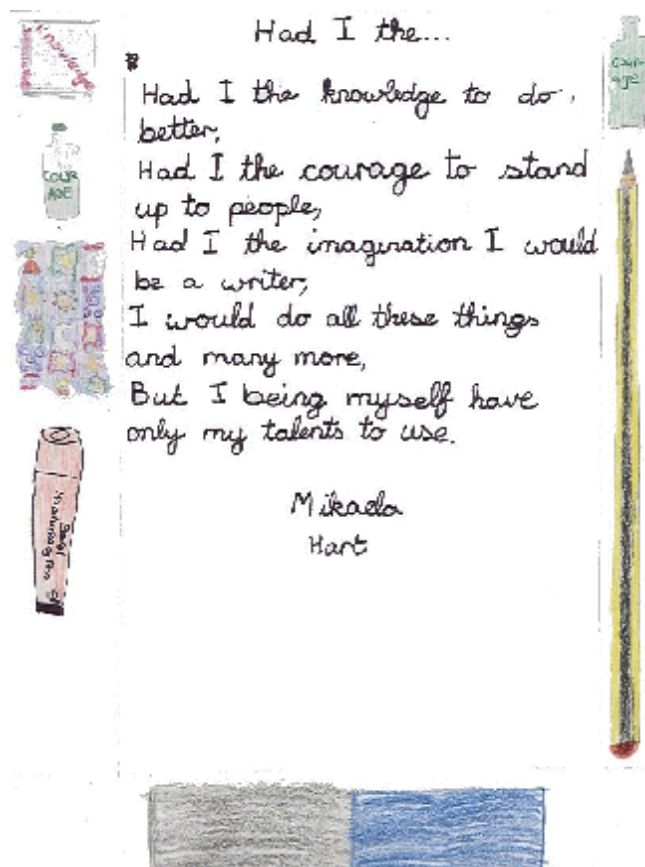


## Encounters and responses

### L215 Dreams in poetry - Year 6

by

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# Introduction

**This unit was developed in Year 6, consisting of 21 boys and 15 girls, in Term 2, Year 6, as part of the Literacy Hour.**

**W. B. Yeats's 'He wishes for the Cloths of Heaven' was studied in conjunction with a selection of other poems based on dreams.**

**The main aim was to develop in the children an appreciation of poetry, particularly,**

- 1. to analyse how messages, moods, feelings and attitudes are conveyed in poetry (T5);**
- 2. to read and interpret poems in which meanings are implied or multi-layered (T6); and**
- 3. to discuss and interpret challenging poems with others (T6).**

**To assist an understanding of dreams, a contemporary fairy tale 'The Boy and the Cloth of Dreams' by Jenny Koralek was used in order to help the children understand**

- 4. aspects of narrative structure (T1); and**
- 5. how authors handle time, e.g., dream (T1).**

**The quality and enthusiasm of the children's responses to 'Cloths of Heaven' underlined the value of incorporating Irish literature into the Literacy Hour.**

Poems

## Dream Song

Sunlight, moonlight,  
Twilight, starlight -  
Gloaming at the close of day,  
And an owl calling,  
Cool dews falling.  
In a wood of oak and may.

Lantern-light, taper-light,  
Torchlight, no-light:  
Darkness at the shut of day,  
And lions roaring,  
Their wrath pouring  
In wild waste places far away.

Elf-light, bat-light,  
Touchwood-light and toad-light,  
And the sea a shimmering gloom of grey,  
And a small face smiling  
In a dream's beguiling  
In a world of wonders far away.

Walter de la Mare

## Dream Variations

To fling my arms wide,  
In some place of the sun,  
To whirl and to dance  
Till the white day is done,  
Then rest at cool evening  
Beneath a tall tree  
While night comes on gently,  
Dark like me,  
That is my dream!

To fling my arms wide,  
In the face of the sun,  
Dance! whirl! whirl!  
Till the quick day is done,  
Rest at pale evening ...  
A tall, slim tree ...  
Night coming tenderly,  
Black like me.

Langston Hughes

## Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep

Do not stand at my grave and weep;  
I am not there. I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow.  
I am the diamond glints on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awaken in the morning's hush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry;  
I am not there. I did not die.

Anonymous

*Found in the belongings of a soldier killed on active service in Northern Ireland. At first, it was thought that the soldier had written it, but the poem is now considered to be North American Indian.*

## He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven

Had I the heavens' embroidered cloths,  
Enwrought with golden and silver light,  
The blue and the dim and the dark cloths  
Of night and light and the half-light,  
I would spread the cloths under your feet: But  
I, being poor, have only my dreams;  
I have spread my dreams under your feet;  
Tread softly because you tread on my dreams.

W.B. Yeats

## Tasks

W.B. Yeats, 'He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven'

1. Look at and count syllables

8  
9  
9  
8  
9  
10  
9  
10

2. Look at rhyme

a. 1,2 1,2

b. same word repeat

<b>Cloths</b>	<b>feet</b>
<b>light</b>	<b>dreams</b>
<b>cloths</b>	<b>feet</b>
<b>light</b>	<b>dreams</b>

3. Look at internal rhyme and alliteration

a. *internal aspects*

**silver light**  
**light**  
**light**  
**half-light**

b. *alliteration*

**dim ... dark**  
**night ... light ... half-light**

**Spread the cloths ...**  
**... dreams**

**Spread the dreams ... feet**

**Tread ... tread ... dreams.**

4. Use the framework of the poem to compose your own poem 'Had I'

1. **Had I the ...**      **ability**  
                                 **courage**  
                                 **love**  
                                 **strength**  
                                 **knowledge**

2. ....

3. ....

4. ....

5. ....

6. **But I ....**

7. **I ....**

8. ....



Had I the courage, the power, the force,  
Had I the wisdom, the knowledge, the skill  
Had I the armour of my mind's eye.  
Had I the determination and might of many  
telepathic minds.  
Had I the vengeance of God's anger.  
Had I the balance of life and death  
I would destroy all the evil and greed,  
The forces of terror and hate would be  
crushed with a single blow.  
But I am only a boy, a human of simple  
straining and simple make.  
Except soon all these dreams will come true.  
For in heaven anything is possible

Matthew Rainford

Had I the love to fill your heart but would I  
hurt your feelings?

Had I the courage to let you in to my thoughts  
and feelings

Had I the imagination to walk into your dreams

Had I the heart I would love you with all my  
life

Kerry Fennell

Had I the strength of a lion,  
I would save the world.  
Had I the speed of a puma,  
I would be an Olympic runner  
Had I the power,  
I would stop all war.  
Had I the bravery of a lion,  
I would defeat my enemies.  
But I don't have these things  
I am just a normal boy.  
But I am glad because all I  
can be is me.

Richard Green

Had I the faith to do the deed.  
Had I the determination to do it.  
Have I the courage and the heart  
to fulfil my task.  
Had I the imagination to out think my enemy.  
Had I the soul to defeat my nightmares.  
I would stand up for myself  
and do all I could.  
But I am me and different from you.

Lee Scotland

Had I the strength of a lion  
I would surely kill my enemies  
With my powerful lunge like a sword  
But this is merely a dream  
I am just a boy  
Nothing out of the ordinary

Thomas Lunt

Had I the knowledge to do better,  
Had I the courage to stand up to people,  
Had I the imagination I would be a writer,  
I would do all these things and more,  
But I being myself have only my talents  
to use

Mikaela Hart

Had I the strength to resist,  
Had I the courage to stand by ground,  
Had I the heart to love you more,  
Had I the knowledge of all the world,  
Had I the energy to carry on,  
Had I the determination to face the world,  
Had I the power of the mighty heavens,  
You would still be in my dreams.

James Goodman

Had I the power I would stop all the fighting,  
killing, people doing drugs, smoking and  
bullying in the world, but I don't so I can't stop  
them, but I will be kind.

Had I the dreams I would be less moany at my  
sisters, but I don't have so I will try.

Had I the knowledge I would be the cleverest  
in my family but I like how I am now.

Bridie Duffy

Had I the love to fill your heart but would I  
hurt your feelings?

Had I the courage to let you in my thoughts  
and feelings,

Had I the imagination to walk into your  
dreams,

Had I the heart I would love you with all my  
life.

Kerry Fennell

Had I the strength to pull the gem loose.

Had I the speed to win the race I  
dreamed of winning.

Had I the imagination to have the greatest  
dream.

Had I the bravery to hurt my enemy.

Had I the courage to speak my word.

Had I the power and skill to lift the  
heaviest coin.

But I am what I am and my talents just  
suit me.

Tony Hynes

Give me the strength and I will move  
mountains,

Give me the courage to defend and I  
will do so,

Give me the determination and I will  
last for days.

But inside, whatever happens, I am still  
vulnerable inside for I am human,  
and that will never change.

Christopher Horton

Had I the speed of a cheetah,

I would beat Linford Christie in a race.

Had I the brains of Einstein,

I would be top of the class in everything.

Had I the courage to climb a mountain,  
I would climb Mount Everest.

Had I dreams to bring back the dead,

I would see my long lost Nanna.

Had I the skills of God,

I would create great conditions.

But I'm only me,

They're all impossible.

Gregory Fife

Had I the strength I would move  
a mountain,  
Had I the speed I'd race a cheetah,  
Had I the courage I'd be a dare devil,  
Had I the power I'd take on Merlin,  
Had I the skill I'd back flip down  
the street.  
But I've not got the strength, speed,  
courage, power and skill I'm just me and  
I'm jolly proud of that.

Ellis Love

Had I the dreams to fill my courage  
Had I the courage to fill my love  
Had I the love to fill my heart  
I would give them up for you  
But I don't  
Have the dreams to fill my courage  
Have the courage to fill my love  
Have the love to fill my heart

Kelly Bryan

Had I the power of dreams that know  
no end.  
Had I the strength of endless love  
Had the heart of love alone  
Had the strength to tell you  
Had I the courage of dreams alone  
If I had the energy of love that is endless  
But I don't have this much to offer  
for these are only dreams

Kate Smith

Had I the courage to fight a lion,  
Had I the energy to lift the world,  
Had I the dreams to dream a great dream.  
I would do anything for you.

Nina O'Donohoe

Had I the dream to fill my heart,  
Had I the knowledge to feed my love,  
Had I the skill to rule the world,  
Had I the soul to search my heart,  
I would think of these things inside  
my head, If I had these things I would  
give them all to you.

Ria Calder

Had I the courage to fight my nightmares  
I would have the strength and power to  
defend myself  
But only if my dreams are bad  
Would I have the speed to run away  
Or would I have thoughts to tell me what to do.  
Had I the wishes to wish me out of these  
bad dreams fore ever.

Jenny Hughes

Had I the strength of a lion I would hunt  
my own food.  
Had I the speed I would race a cheetah.  
Had I the brain I would cure all known  
diseases.

Adam Hefferan

Had I the power to crash an iceberg  
Had I the skill to score a goal  
Had I the strength to lift a car  
Had I the power to shine the sun

Scott McKenna

Had I the courage to face my fears.  
Had I the power of might to fly my dreams.  
Had I the love to live my life.  
Had I the skill to run away.  
Had I the knowledge to my money.  
Had I the dreams to fight.  
Had I then but now I've lost.

Philip Rogers

Had I the aches for you?  
Had I owned the earth?  
Had I the power and might?  
I would pay, love, and give you my  
determination.  
I would but until then slip on my dreams.

Philip Kubicki

Had I the dream to bring back the dead,  
I would play with my nana,  
But she had to go.  
Had I the bravery to fight for England,  
I would let people live in FREEDOM,

But I don't have the bravery,  
Had I the imagination of a fantasy novel writer.  
I would write great novels,  
But surely someone would beat me.

Adam Geraghty