

Wednesday 25th May

LO: to summarise the poem.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Glossary	
champed	ate noisily
cropping	cutting
descended	came down
dwelt	lived
ferny	covered in ferns
hearkening	listening – paying attention
host	group or crowd
perplexed	puzzled
phantom	ghost
plunging	falling steeply
sill	window sill – shelf under a window
smote	struck with a firm blow
spake	old-fashioned for spoke
stirrup	metal supports for the foot on a horse's saddle
surged	moved forward with force
thronging	crowding together
turf	grass
turret	tower

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

'The Listeners' by Walter de la Mare

I Do

We do

'Is there anybody there?' said the Traveller,
Knocking on the moonlit door;
And his horse in the silence champed the grasses
Of the forest's ferny floor:
And a bird flew up out of the turret,
Above the Traveller's head:
And he smote upon the door again a second time;

The Traveller is given a capital letter so it must be a name.
The poem seems to be set in the past because the Traveller has a horse.
Some of the words seem to be old-fashioned too (champed, smote, turret).
I think the scene is in a wood and it is night time because it mentions moonlit.
The Traveller is knocking on a door and calling 'Is there anybody there?'

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

'The Listeners' by Walter de la Mare

I Do

We do

'Is there anybody there?' he said.
But no one descended to the Traveller;
No head from the leaf-fringed sill
Leaned over and looked into his grey eyes,
Where he stood perplexed and still.
But only a host of phantom listeners
That dwelt in the lone house then
Stood listening in the quiet of the moonlight
To that voice from the world of men:

The Traveller is calling out again, but no-one answers him.
There are some ghosts listening, but they don't come to answer the door;
they don't look out at him; they just listen.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

'The Listeners' by Walter de la Mare

I Do

We do

Stood thronging the faint moonbeams on the dark stair,
That goes down to the empty hall,
Hearkening in an air stirred and shaken
By the lonely Traveller's call.

The ghosts are still listening
the air is the only thing moving - the Traveller's voice is stirring the air.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

'The Listeners' by Walter de la Mare

I Do

We do

And he felt in his heart their strangeness,
Their stillness answering his cry,
While his horse moved, cropping the dark turf,
'Neath the starred and leafy sky;
For he suddenly smote on the door, even
Louder, and lifted his head:—
'Tell them I came, and no one answered,
That I kept my word,' he said.

The Traveller can feel the ghosts even though they are very still.
His horse seems to be the only thing that's normal - it just goes on eating.
Then he bangs on the door again.
He seems to have made a promise that he would come to the house, so he is
frustrated that no-one answers.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

'The Listeners' by Walter de la Mare

I Do

We do

Never the least stir made the listeners,
Though every word he spake
Fell echoing through the shadowiness of the still house
From the one man left awake:
Ay, they heard his foot upon the stirrup,
And the sound of iron on stone,
And how the silence surged softly backward,
When the plunging hoofs were gone.

The ghosts still don't make a move.

He is the only person 'awake' does that mean alive?

The poem still says the ghosts hear him get back on his horse and ride away.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ



You do

What happened in the poem?

Record the story of the poem -
use some of your favourite lines
and phrases from the poem in
your work

Write a summary. Remember to
use the language skills we have
learned this Half Term

Expanded noun phrases,
short sentences, -ed and -ing sentence starters, fronted
adverbials, parenthesis, relative clause and direct speech.