

Year 8 English – Task 3

Spoken Language

Discuss your memories with a trusted partner:

- What is your happiest memory? What is your saddest memory? Can you think of other memories linked to emotions? E.g. fear, excitement.
- What is your earliest memory?
- In what ways can memories help us? Why are they important?

Reading

Read the poem below and answer the questions which follow it.

It Was Long Ago

- I'll tell you something, shall I, something I remember?
Something that still means a great deal to me.
It was long ago.
- 5 A dusty road in summer I remember,
A mountain, and an old house, and a tree
That stood, you know,
Behind the house. An old woman I remember
In a red shawl with a grey cat on her knee
Humming under a tree.
- 10 She seemed the oldest thing I can remember,
But then perhaps I was not more than three.
It was long ago.
- I dragged on the dusty road, and I remember
How the old woman looked over the fence at me
15 And seemed to know
How it felt to be three, and called out, I remember
'Do you like bilberries and cream for tea?'
I went under the tree,
- 20 And while she hummed, and the cat purred, I remember
How she filled a saucer with berries and cream for me
So long ago,
Such berries and such cream as I remember
I never had seen before, and never see
Today, you know.
- 25 And that is almost all I can remember,
The house, the mountain, the grey cat on her knee,
Her red shawl, and the tree,
And the taste of the berries, the feel of the sun I remember,
And the smell of everything that used to be
30 So long ago,
Till the heat on the road outside again I remember,
And how the long dusty road seemed to have for me
No end, you know.
- 35 That is the farthest thing I can remember.
It won't mean much to you. It does to me.
Then I grew up, you see.

Eleanor Farjeon

Look again at lines 1 to 12.

1. (a) How old was the speaker when this happened? (1)
- (b) Briefly describe what happened. (1)
- (c) Write down two quotations which make it clear that this is a memory. (2)

Look again at lines 13 to 24.

2. Alliteration is the repetition of a consonant sound and onomatopoeia is the use of a word which creates the sound of the thing it describes.

- (a) Write down an example of each. (2)
- (b) Explain why the poet might have used them. (4)

Look at lines 19 to 30.

3. The poet uses all of the five senses in these lines.
Find five examples, one for each sense. Use quotations to support your answer.

(5)

Look at lines 31 to 36.

4.
(a) Write down two quotations which suggest that travelling on 'the road' might have been difficult. (2)

(b) The last line of the poem suggests a difference between the young child and the grown-up. What does the poem suggest about being a young child?

(3)

Look at the poem as a whole.

5. What do you notice about the shape and form of the stanzas?
Comment on anything you find interesting.

(5)

(25)

Writing

Write a recount of your most important memory. You should write in first person perspective (I, me, my, our, we) and past tense. You could include:

- Where did it take place?
- What happened?
- Who was involved?
- How did it make you feel at the time and how do you feel now looking back?
- Why is it such an important memory to you?