

Task 1 – Speaking

Discuss the following questions in pairs or small groups:

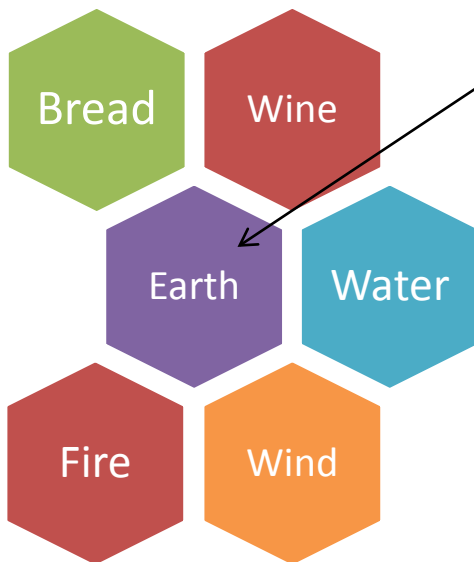
- In your culture, what associations do people usually make with **bread** and **wine**?
- Are these associations fundamentally different in other cultures you know?

- In your culture, what associations do people usually make with the four elements: **earth**, **water**, **wind**, and **fire**?
- Are these associations fundamentally different in other cultures you know?



Task 2 - Vocabulary

Match the words. There are *many* possible associations.



green	day	trees	summer
rose	quicksand	crops	blowing
fruit	force	blood	night
mountain	spring	mouth	rocks
pool	clay	roots	grapes
fountain	love	heaven	stars
worm	hand	oat	sail
vine	sun	break	stream
veins	sap	flower	

Task 3 - Listening

Listen to two Dylan Thomas poems where the words above are used. Which words are used in each poem? Write the words in the table below.

Poem 1	Poem 2

Task 4 – Reading and speaking

Read the poems and check your answers for **Task 3**.

<p>This bread I break</p> <p>This bread I break was once the oat, The wine upon a foreign tree Plunged in its fruit; Man in the day or wine at night Laid the crops low, broke the grape's joy.</p> <p>Once in this wine the summer blood Knocked in the flesh that decked the vine, Once in this bread The oat was merry in the wind; Man broke the sun, pulled the wind down.</p> <p>This flesh you break, this blood you let Make desolation in the vein, Were oat and grape Born of the sensual root and sap; My wine you drink, my bread you snap.</p>	<p>The force that through the green fuse</p> <p>The force that through the green fuse drives the flower Drives my green age; that blasts the roots of trees Is my destroyer. And I am dumb to tell the crooked rose My youth is bent by the same wintry fever.</p> <p>The force that drives the water through the rocks Drives my red blood; that dries the mouthing streams Turns mine to wax. And I am dumb to mouth unto my veins How at the mountain spring the same mouth sucks.</p> <p>The hand that whirls the water in the pool Stirs the quicksand; that ropes the blowing wind Hauls my shroud sail. And I am dumb to tell the hanging man How of my clay is made the hangman's lime.</p> <p>The lips of time leech to the fountain head; Love drips and gathers, but the fallen blood Shall calm her sores. And I am dumb to tell a weather's wind How time has ticked a heaven round the stars.</p> <p>And I am dumb to tell the lover's tomb How at my sheet goes the same crooked worm.</p>
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Now read the poems again and discuss the questions below in pairs or small groups:

- Have any of the word associations in the poems surprised you?
- Are there any lines in the poems that you find particularly beautiful/memorable?
- What are the main ideas and themes in each poem? Which lines suggest that to you?
- Are there any images and/or ideas that are common to both poems?
- Which of the two poems do you prefer? Why?

Task 5 – Language work

Read the definition of *collocations* in English:

collocation

Line breaks: col|lo|ca|tion Pronunciation: /kɒləˈkeɪʃ(ə)n / noun [mass noun]

- 1 *Linguistics* The habitual juxtaposition of a particular word with another word or words with a frequency greater than chance: ‘the words have a similar range of collocation’
- 1.1 [count noun] A pair or group of words that are habitually juxtaposed: ‘strong tea’ and ‘heavy drinker’ are typical English collocations’

Source: <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/collocation>

Use an English collocations dictionary and find some common collocations for the words below. Then write some sample sentences.

	Collocations	Sentences
Bread		
Wine		
Earth		
Water		
Wind		
Fire		

Task 6 – Listening and pronunciation

- Listen to the poems again. Pay attention to individual sounds, stress and intonation.
- Choose *one stanza* from each poem to read aloud.
- Check your pronunciation with your teacher.
- Practise reading the stanzas aloud to your partner.

Homework

Do internet research: look for poems that deal with the four elements (earth, water, wind and fire). Choose *one* and bring it into your next class to read to your colleagues.

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