

Over the next three weeks we are going to be following the story of The Tear Thief by Carol Ann Duffy.

The Tear Thief by Carol Ann Duffy - Part 1.

Late one evening, the Tear Thief crept into a town. The tier Thief was invisible and carried a silvery waterproof sack on her back. Only if you happened to look into a puddle as she was passing could you see what the Tear Thief looked like because a puddle was the only thing that showed her reflection. The Tear Thief had short spikey white hair and big grey eyes. She wore a handkerchief dress and silk slippers that made no sound as she walked.

The Tear Thief came to a quiet road with a neat row of houses and flew into a tall tree there for a good look and a listen. It was the hour between upper and bedtime. All the curtained windows were flushed with light, and enticing smells of soup and stew and pasta and onions (the Tear Thief's favourite) and rhubarb crumble were drifting up and away into the deepening dusk. The Tear Thief listened hard with sharp ears.

'Boo-hoo-hoo'

A child was crying.

The Tear Thief jumped lightly from the top of the tree on to the roof of the first house. She crept along the rooftops, silent as smoke, listening, until she heard the crying again.

'Boo-hoo-hoo!'

Ha! The crying was coming from Number 17. Quick as a blink, the Tear Thief slid down the chimney into the attic and pressed her ear to a floorboard.

'Boo-hoo-hoo!' 'Boo-hoo-hoo!'

Down the stairs, sly as steam, sneaked the Tear Thief, on to the landing and into the bathroom. A boy was sitting in the bath crying his eyes out. His mother was kneeling by the side of the bathtub holding a pink bottle of strawberry shampoo.

The Tear Thief sat perched on the edge of the bath, watching excitedly and loosening the top of her sack. 'I don't want to be shampooooed!' wailed the boy in the bubbles.

'Stop this silly crying' said the boy's mother, 'or the Tear Thief will hear you.'

The boy stopped crying and stared at his mother. A single plump tear dangled from the end of his nose like a pearl. The Tear Thief pounced. In once quick movement she snatched the gleaming tear from the boy's nose and popped it into her sack. 'Oh!' gasped the boy as his last year seemed to disappear into thin air.

'I told you' said his mother. 'That was probably the Tear Thief.'

The boy and his mother started to laugh, but by now the Tear Thief had flown across the hall, out through the front door and had shimmied halfway up a lamp-post. She sat on the top, swinging her legs and listening.

'Waaah! Waaah! Waaah!'

Reading —The Tear Thief by Carol Ann Duffy.

Monday

Read part one of the story 'The Tear Thief'

Retrieval questions.

Who are the three main characters in the story?

Find and copy a word that the text uses to describe the tear thief being unable to be seen by others.

Where is the one place you might be able to see the Tear Thief?

What is the Tear Thief listening for?

Where does the Tear Thief put the single plump tear?

Tuesday

Pick out any words which interest you and you would like to find out more about. Here are few that we found:

Vocabulary

plump

dusk

reflection

sly

shimmied

Can you write these words on post it notes and stick them round the house? You could ask an adult to help you with a definition to these words. Every time you see one, could you say the definition out loud?

Wednesday - creative task.

First skim and scan the text for as many ways the author uses to describe the tear thief.

Can you draw the tear thief using the ideas you found in the text?

Thursday and Friday

Use the text to have a go at answering these questions independently.

What is Mum holding when she is kneeling by the bath?

Find and copy a word that means the same as cried.

Do you think the Mum and child are scared of the Tear Thief?

The Tear Thief 'snatched' the gleaming tear from the boy's nose. Can you think of another word the author could have used instead of 'snatched'?

Can you put these orders in event? 1 - 4

The Tear Thief snatches the tear.

The Tear Thief hears crying coming from number 17.

Mum and the child start to laugh.

Mum warns the child that the Tear Thief will hear him.