

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

The Tear Thief - Part three

There was nobody there. The girl looked at the puddle again. Sure enough, there was a reflection of the Tear Thief in the water. 'Who are you?' asked the girl.

'I am the Tear Thief' The girl knelt down by the puddle and stared hard at the Tear Thief's reflection.

'How old are you?' 'As old as joy and sorrow' 'Where do you live?' 'In every place where children cry.'

'Were you going to steal my tears?' 'Yes', said the face of the Tear Thief in the puddle. 'Your tears are the most precious tears of all. They are worth more than diamonds.'

The girl stood up again. Her face was still wet with tears, like the leaves of the trees were with the rain. She gently wiped off one of her own tears with her fingertip and stared at it. She could see the reflection of the Tear Thief there as well!

'But why are my tears so precious?' asked the girl.

'I will tell you everything,' said the Tear Thief, 'if you give me your tears. Just close your eyes and listen'.

So the girl closed her eyes and the Tear Thief gathered the tears from her eyelashes and cheeks as she whispered:

'Each night, in the hour between supper and bedtime, I visit a different street and I steal the tears of every child who cries. When my sack is full, I climb up to the moon and I pour my sack of tears into the moon's light. The light of the moon is made from tears of laughter or pain or anger or boredom, or every kind of tear you can think of – but the most beautiful part of the moon's light comes from tears of pure sadness. And that is what your tears are!'

'Yes', said the girl 'it's because I've lost my little dog.'

She opened her eyes as she said this and looked again in the puddle but there was nobody there. She ran along the street to the next puddle and stared into it, then the next and the next and the next. But they were just ordinary puddles with nothing special in them at all. The girl ran round the corner, looking down at all the puddles as she ran. Then she ran round another corner, and another, searching in every puddle for one more glimpse of the Tear Thief. But it was no use. The Tear Thief was gone. 'Woof!' The girl looked up. 'Woof! Woof!' A little black dog with a white chest was sitting under a tree at the end of the street. The girl called out her dog's name. 'It's you!' she said. 'I've found you!' And so she had. Her lost dog was splashing towards her through the puddles.

The girl was safely tucked up in bed and the dog was safely curled up in his basket. The rain had stopped completely now and all the puddles were shrinking. The night was calm and quiet. The girl always left her curtains open so that she could see the star she was born under if she opened her eyes. She opened them now. Outside her window a full moon rose, huge and luminous. 'Oh!' gasped the girl. She got out of bed and went to the window. It was the most beautiful moon she had ever seen in her whole young life! Light poured from it in a million different moonbeams. The girl saw the light of the moon in her garden, turning the leaves on the trees to silver. Beyond that, she saw the light of the moon on the rooftops of all the houses, like honey. A midnight cat walked along a wall and the light of the moon made its eyes burn gold. The whole town moon-bathed as it slept. The river lay on its back and gazed up at the moon, dazzled and lovesick. The girl looked up. For one brief, magical moment she could see Tear Thief again, pouring and pouring her sack of tears into the light of the moon. It was so bright that tears came to her eyes as she looked. Her dog snuffled in his basket. In the house next door, on the other side of the wall, the new-born baby started to cry.

Reading —The Tear Thief by Carol Ann Duffy. PART 3

Monday

Read part two of the story 'The Tear Thief'

Retrieval questions.

Where does the Tear Thief live?

Find and copy a word that the text uses to describe the tears being special.

What has the little girl lost?

What does the Tear Thief do when her sack is full?

Why does the little girl cry at the end of the story?

Tuesday

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

Vocabulary

tucked

luminous

gasp

dazzled

muffled

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 - Evaluative question.

Who do you think helped the girl to find her dog?

Encourage your child to find evidence in the text and use this question to discuss - there is no need to write down.

Thursday and Friday

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

How old is the Tear Thief?

The author has chosen the word 'dazzling' to describe the moon. Can you think of a different word the author could have chosen?

Can you put these events in order of when they happened?

- The little girl finds her dog
- the new born baby starts to cry
- the girl sees the tear thief pouring her sack of tears into the light of the moon.
- the tear thief takes the little girls tears.

Summative question: Has your opinion of the Tear Thief changed as you read further through the book? Why?