

## Framing Nature in Poetry



A study morning led by

**Dr Elaine Oswald**

Berwick Voluntary Centre  
Tweed Street, Berwick  
Saturday, 1st December 2018,  
10 am to 1 pm

With the approach of winter and the longest night, we tend to be aware of the natural world and the play of dark and light at this time of the year. December is traditionally a time for reflection, as we wait for the coming of the longer days and the cycle to begin again—and then after the winter solstice, people from all cultures celebrate the return of the light.

Nature with its endless cycles of dark and light, death and rebirth, has fascinated poets for centuries. This class will take a look at how nature poetry has evolved from the Romantic era and allow us to reflect on our own relationship with nature. Join us for a day of meaningful poetry and inspiration for your own writing as we begin the season of reflection by immersing ourselves in nature poetry.

Nature poetry has been described as poems that reflect a highly developed consciousness of the natural world; the poetic space thus being a place where we can dwell in nature and celebrate life around us.

We'll start with a brief look at the 19th century and the Wordsworthian view of nature before we jump into the 20th century with poets such as John Clare, the peasant poet; Dylan Thomas with his lush green world; and Ted Hughes with his raw natural world. Then we'll focus on the 21st century and explore some contemporary poets who are framing nature in different ways, poets such as Mary Oliver, Alice Oswald, Jane Kenyon, and Kathleen Jamie.

By the end of this class, you will have absorbed some inspiring poetry and should be able to:

- Recognize the ways in which poetry can reflect the concerns of society or the individual at a particular point in time
- Recognize how nature has been depicted in literature
- Appreciate the use of poetic devices such as imagery and metaphor
- Respond to the readings either creatively or analytically

To get the most out of this class you will need an enthusiasm for close reading and discussing a range of texts. You'll be interested in listening to, and learning from, the responses of other participants to the work discussed. You will have a commitment to developing your analytical skills. And you'll love the ways in which poets use words.

**Tickets £9, including refreshments. All are welcome and no previous knowledge is assumed.**

If you supply us with your personal data (name, address or email), we will hold this in accordance with our privacy policy, available [here](#) or by request to BEA, 7 Ravensdowne, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1HX. If you have any queries, please email [berwickea@gmail.com](mailto:berwickea@gmail.com) or phone Cian McHugh on 01289 303254

**To book online, [please click here](#)**

**to book by mail**, please fill in the booking form below, and mail to BEA, 7 Ravensdowne, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1HX along with a cheque in favour of BEA.

Name

Address

Tel No

Email

Cheque enclosed £

*(Framing Nature)*