



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



Literacy Resources

Poetry - reading and understanding

"Open the Doors!"

Edwin Morgan wrote a poem called "Open the Doors!" to celebrate the opening of the new Scottish Parliament building. It was read aloud at the opening ceremony.

Read the poem "Open the Doors!" and then answer the following questions. You can find the poem at www.scottish.parliament.uk/openthedoors



Edwin Morgan in front of his poem.

1. Write down 3 words that catch your attention in the poem. Why are they interesting words to use?
2. Write down one metaphor that is used in the poem.
3. Write down one simile that is used in the poem.
4. Write down two examples of Scots words being used.
5. Why do you think the poet uses these kind of words?
6. What words does the poet use in verses 4 and 5 to show that he is speaking to MSPs?
7. What do you think Edwin Morgan is telling us about the Parliament?

Glossary of words

"syncopations" - this term is used mostly in music to describe a rhythm which is off the beat.

"the Mile" - the street in Edinburgh also known as "The Royal Mile" which has Edinburgh Castle at one end and the Palace of Holyrood and the Scottish Parliament at the other.

"St Giles" - the Edinburgh cathedral situated about half-way down the Royal Mile.

"link-boys" - during the 18th century, men who got too drunk would be helped to their carriages by youths carrying torches.

"Enlightenment" - the 17th century period of scientific and intellectual thought which influenced 18th century society. Thinkers of this time promoted a rational and scientific approach to religious, social, political and economic issues.

"makars" - old Scots word for poets or writers, people with ideas.

