

Teacher / Adult's Side (1)

Liverpool Biennial

KS2 English - Bodies of Water
Short Stories: Stomach

The Learner will read a story based on one of the themes of Liverpool Biennial 2021, discover new words and answer questions based on the text to demonstrate their understanding.

Estimated time = 40 mins

Curriculum Extract:

Pupils should be taught to:

- Develop positive attitudes to reading, and an understanding of what they read, by:
 - Listening to and discussing a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books or textbooks
 - Reading books that are structured in different ways and reading for a range of purposes
 - Using dictionaries to check the meaning of words that they have read
- Understand what they read, in books they can read independently, by:
 - Checking that the text makes sense to them, discussing their understanding, and explaining the meaning of words in context
 - Asking questions to improve their understanding of a text
- Retrieve and record information from non-fiction

Key Terms:

- **Theme** - A theme is an underlying message or big idea of a story.
- **Glossary** - An alphabetical list of words relating to a specific subject, with explanations; a brief dictionary.
- **Transatlantic Slave Trade** - The Slave Trade was the selling of African people as slaves by Europeans that happened in and around the Atlantic Ocean. It lasted from the 1500s to the 1800s. Most of the enslaved people were taken from West Africa and brought to America on huge ships, where conditions were terrible, in exchange for trade items such as cotton and sugar.
- **Campaign** - An organized course of action to achieve a goal.

Liverpool Biennial 2021, The Stomach and The Port is centred around 3 themes: 'The Stomach', 'Kinship' and 'Porosity'. Writer Natalie Denny has created stories based on these themes. This story is written around the lyrics of the hymn 'Amazing Grace' and discusses the strong Irish heritage that exists within Liverpool today.

The hymn 'Amazing Grace' was written by an anti-slavery campaigner John Newton (who lived from 1725 to 1807). When he landed in Ireland, having survived a shipwreck, he wrote the first verse in Bunrana, County Donegal.

His arrival on Irish shores marked the beginning of his conversion to Christianity and the start of a life of good work, in contrast to his dark past as someone who previously participated in the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

From 1750, John Newton took up the position of the master of the 'Duke of Argyll' slave ship, where he treated the enslaved African people onboard terribly. It was only in 1754 that he gave up seafaring after a serious illness. Three years later, he applied to become a priest and began to deeply regret his involvement in the Slave Trade.

In 1787, Newton wrote a pamphlet supporting the growing anti-slavery campaign called 'Thoughts upon the African Slave Trade', which was very influential. It described the horrors of the Slave Trade and his role in it. He later joined William Wilberforce in the campaign to end slavery and the trading of human life.

Activity Instructions:

Part 1

1. Read the story (on pages 3 and 4), which is based around the hymn 'Amazing Grace'.
2. Highlight any new words that you come across and either find them in our 'glossary' (on page 5) or discuss with a grown up about what the words mean.

Part 2

Take a look at the 6 questions on page 6. Can you find all the answers to these questions within the story? Don't forget to write in full sentences!

Material List:

- Pencil
- Pen
- Highlighter

'Stomach: Irish Heritage' by Natalie Denny

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound...

Our stomach sings.

It hums when it's full; a light gurgling. It growls when it's hungry; a deep voice.

A song that can lead us across oceans in search for a better tune.

That saved a wretch like me...

The stomach is the pear-shaped organ that sits inside our tummies. It's the place in our bodies of making and breaking big food into little food- so tiny it can be absorbed in the rivers within us and sail along our bodies to the places that it's needed. Everyday our stomachs accept what we feed it and turn food into something new to help our bodies to walk, jump, swim and sing.

Our bellies are full of energy, just like our city.

I once was lost, but now I'm found...

Liverpool is a place with many different people from many different places. A space of meeting and change, just like our stomach. It has the oldest Black and Chinese community in Europe and over 50% of people who live here have Irish blood.

Was blind but now, I see...

Ireland is known as the Emerald Isle for its beautiful rolling hills and valleys of green. Liverpool's connection with Irishness is clear in our voices, how we enjoy ourselves, our strength, our friendly smiles and how we support each other.

Through many dangers, toils and snares...

In 1846 many Irish people left their homes by water. The Great Potato famine was a time when many people had empty bellies, but disease was full. Crops failed but spirits didn't. 1.5 million Irish people chose Liverpool as their new song, a new tune to hum.

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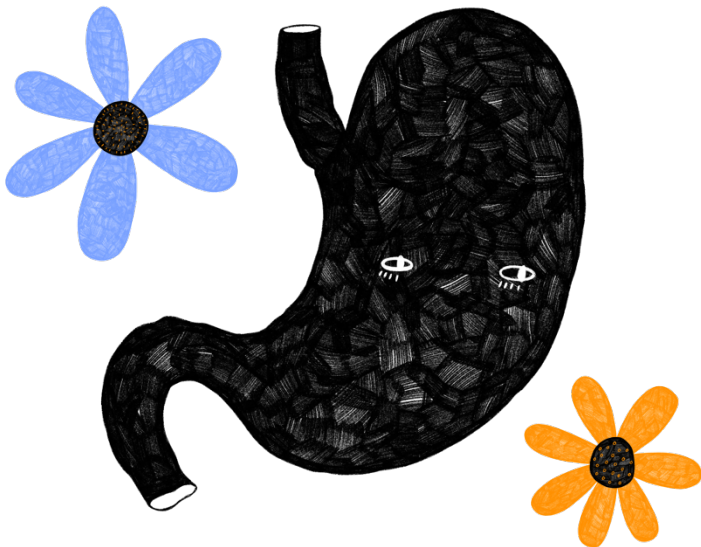
We have already come...

Life wasn't easy for many. Irish people knew the river and docks well. They took jobs in warehouses, construction and all around the docklands. Giving their time and energy to building the city up to make it the special place we see today.

T'was Grace that brought us safe thus far...

The Irish community opened centres in Liverpool, started festivals and support services to honour their heritage and to celebrate. The people in Ireland rebuilt and grew strong. Their impact felt across the world. Irish heritage has fed us all. Made our songs sweeter, our stomachs happier, our future brighter.

And Grace will lead us home.



Illustrations by
Gabriella Hernandez

Want to showcase your brilliant work? Email your creations to learning@biennial.com for the chance for your writing to be displayed on our website or tag us on social media using the hashtag #LB2021. We can't wait to see your submissions!

Glossary

- **Famine** – A famine exists when large numbers of people cannot get enough food for long periods of time. People in a famine may die from starvation or disease.
- **Grace** – The approval or kindness, especially (in the Christian religion) that is freely given by God to all humans.
- **T'was** – Short form of 'it was'.
- **Thus** – To this degree or extent.
- **Construction** – The act or process of building.
- **Toils** – To work hard and long.
- **Snares** – A snare is a trap, usually used for catching animals.
- **Community** – A community is a group of people living in a particular area.
- **Wretch** – A miserable, unhappy person.
- **Gurgling** – A sound like liquid flowing with a bubbling current.
- **Hum** – To vibrate with a continuous low sound or to make the sound of a song without opening the lips.
- **Hymn** – A song of praise, especially to God.
- **Irish Blood** – To have 'Irish blood' means that you have Irish ancestry – some of your past relatives were Irish.

1. How does Natalie Denny describe the stomach?

2. What percentage of people that live in Liverpool have Irish heritage?

3. What alternative name is Ireland known as and why is it called this?

4. What happened in 1846 to make people leave Ireland?

5. How many people moved to Liverpool during this time?

6. What jobs did Irish people take up when they moved to Liverpool?
