

Storytelling and language learning

TESL webinar March 20, 2025

Adapted by Prof. Alice Pivniceru from Alex Martin, *Modern Poetry*

Vocabulary enhancement activity

Select a poem (e.g. Philip Larkin's *The Whitsun Weddings*) and instruct students to read the poem.

Task 1: Find and list all the words that describe movement (or the absence of movement).

Task 2: Separate the “movement” words into the following categories (students can organize the words in a table):

- a. Verbs that refer to movement upwards or downwards**
- b. Verbs that refer to starting or stopping**
- c. Verbs that refer to movements and gestures of the body**
- d. Verbs that describe slow/quick movement**
- e. Verbs that describe movement in relation to other things**

Task 3: Show the following images and ask students to use the “movement” words they identified in Larkin's poem to write a short paragraph describing what is happening in the images. Collect the descriptions and create a class “magazine” titled: Stories in Motion.

