



## Reading a dialect

Read this extract aloud.



I'm Bell Treadle, I'm a lad, I'm right ...

All down Mullerston there's becks running down off the fell. It's bonny. Down off the steep scales, dry in summer till one single drop of rain sends them running and rushing and tumbling down the fellside like threads of silk. Like cobwebs. And when the wind blows across the dale these becks gasp, and they rise up on themselves like the wild horses in Watergat Bottom. They rise up on their hind legs. Or like smoke blowing, like ever so many bonfires, not water at all, all smoking in the wind between Castle Dale and the Moorcock toward Wensleydale. It's bonny.



And townfolk come looking at all this new where once they only went to the Lake District over the west. Renting and leasing they come. Talking south. "Why'd they come?" I ask our grandad who's leased the farm house he used to live in one year dead. "There's not out for 'em here. What's any of a farm to them?" Just for sitting in. Never a thing going on." "Renting," says my grandad. "They take 'em for resting in after London."

From *The Miller Lass's Last Garden*



What is a *dialect*? How does it differ from standard English?

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Unless you live in the part of England where this text is set, you probably found this difficult to read aloud. Why?

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Can you give the standard English words for these words: *beck*, *fell*, *bonny*, *scales*, *themselves*?

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What do you think the following local expressions mean?

It's bonny .....

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There's not out for 'em here .....

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