



# dandelion

## *dandelion*

### Dandelion 1

#### Seek, find, speak

- What does the image on the page remind you of?

#### Research challenge

- How did the name, *dandelion*, originate? [The artist chose to represent the leaves of the dandelion like a clock and lion's teeth]

#### Art challenge

- Select a plant and experiment with making a slightly abstracted outline.

### Dandelion 2

#### Wonder words

What do these mean? Can you find any synonyms? Try using them with a partner by creating different sentences.

- *Bane*
- *Perfectionists*

#### Seek, find, speak

- Who is the writer speaking to and what sort of mood is created?
- Why is the flower called 'sun-of-the-grass!' and 'tiny time-machine!'?
- Why would the writer call it 'Bane of Lawn Perfectionists,' 'Fallen Star of the Football Pitch or Scatterseed'?

### Dandelion 3

#### Seek, find, speak

- What does this painting depict? [The different phases in a dandelion's growth]
- Why do you think the hare is in the illustration?
- How does this painting make you feel?
- What is the collective noun for goldfinches and also for hares?

- Why wouldn't the writer call it 'only, merely, simply' weed'?
- What patterns can you find in the poem? [Bracketed refrain, with fifth word changing each time to include another wild flower]
- If you were renaming the dandelion, which name would you choose?

#### Writing challenge

- Choose another wild flower, maybe one of the ones in the refrain, and find out about the different names it might have.
- Create a *cinquain* spell about your chosen flower, or the dandelion. A *cinquain* consists of five unrhymed lines. Each line has a set number of syllables:  
Line 1: 2 syllables  
Line 2: 4 syllables  
Line 3: 6 syllables  
Line 4: 8 syllables  
Line 5: 2 syllables

e.g. Dog rose  
Twined in hedgerows  
Five-petalled, pollen crowned,  
Pale and fragile, softly blushing  
Fruitful.

#### Research challenges

- Find out about the life cycle of the dandelion. Watch these time-lapse videos and make notes. Which do you prefer and why? Which do you think gives the most information?  
Search:  
[YouTube Dandelion Clock Blowing](#);  
[YouTube Dandelion Flower Clock Blowing](#);  
[YouTube Dandelion Blooming Going to Seed](#);  
[YouTube Pusteblyume Cipsela](#)
- Find out what other uses are made of different parts of the dandelion.

#### Creative challenge

- Take a dandelion seed and look closely at it with a magnifying glass. See the bright, light parachute that lifts it on the wind; the shape of its spear seed, sharp, so that when it lands, it catches the earth. Imagine the journey from dandelion clock to earth landing. Draw a single seed – huge on a big piece of paper to accompany your imaginings.

#### Further reading and connections

- *Varmints* by Helen Ward and Marc Craste and the [animation of the book](#)  
Search: [YouTube Varmints Animation](#)

