

Claustrophobia

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Before Listening and Watching

1.

Claustrophobia *claustrə'fɔ:biə* *n.* a morbid fear of confined spaces

Do you or does anyone you know suffer from claustrophobia? What happens when someone suffers from this condition?

Where might people suffer from claustrophobia? Think of five places where this might happen – at least one of them must be a public place!

1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	

2. Anyone who has travelled on public transport during a busy period, like the rush hour, will know that smells on a crowded train or bus can be unforgettable, and that these smells will change depending on a number of things, especially the weather. In wet weather the smells will be very different from those on a hot day, for example. Make a list of the smells you might find on crowded train or bus, and put them into two columns, pleasant smells and unpleasant smells. What do you imagine will be the longer list?

Pleasant smells	Unpleasant smells

3. Smell plays an important role in this poem on claustrophobia. How do you think the following might be used to reinforce the sense of claustrophobia through smell? (Imagine you are travelling on public transport)

old garlic, weak tea
cornflakes, porridge
lust
almond breath
jam
raspberries and loneliness
muesli
milk
straw
violets and sulphur
sweat, skin ,soap
stale love

Language Box

In the poem you will hear the following words which refer to smell 'smell' (either as a verb or a noun) are used. Which ones are positive and which ones are negative?

Smell	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gag	<input type="checkbox"/>
Perfume	<input type="checkbox"/>	Suck	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sap	<input type="checkbox"/>
Breath	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stinks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reeks	<input type="checkbox"/>		

After Listening and Watching

1. Here are some screen shots from the animation. Put them in the order in which they occur, then write a brief description about what each picture represents in the poem (The first one has been done for you)



1	The breath of a hundred lives ... smell of tea, garlic, cornflakes

2. Is it possible to smell loneliness, grief or guilt? What would they smell like? Make a list of other emotions. Decide what they would smell and/or taste like!