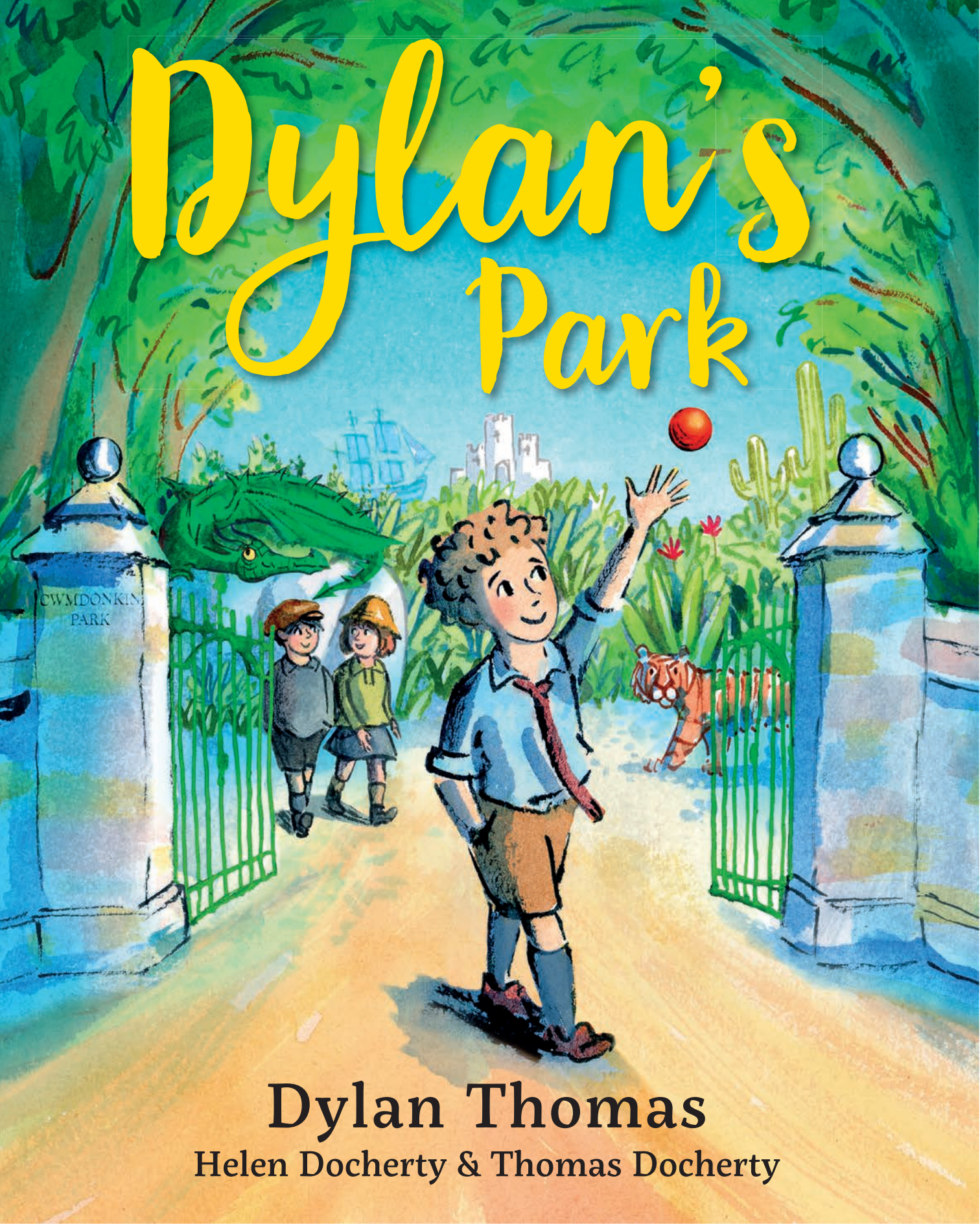

Dylan's Park
CWMDONKIN PARK
Dylan Thomas
Helen Docherty & Thomas Docherty

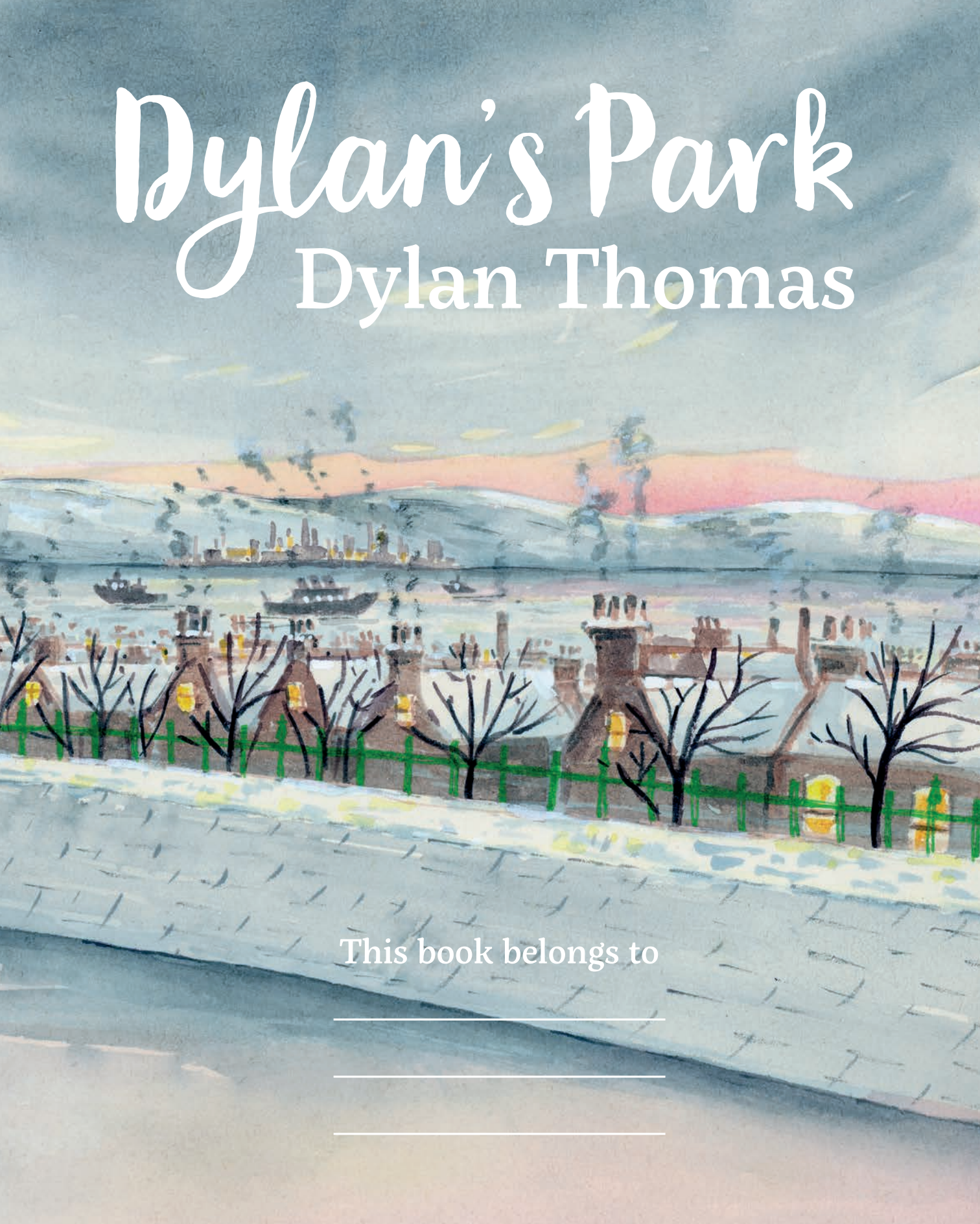






Dylan's Park

Dylan Thomas



This book belongs to

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Dylan Thomas

Dylan Thomas is one of Wales's best loved poets and writers. He was born on 27 October 1914 in 5 Cwmdonkin Drive in Uplands, Swansea, the family home where he grew up.

As a boy, Dylan spent many happy hours playing in Cwmdonkin Park with his friends, and he wrote about this in *Reminiscences of Childhood*, originally a radio broadcast.

An edited version of this, focusing on Dylan's memories of the park, forms the main part of this story. The text in the final two pages comes from *Return Journey* and the poem 'Should Lanterns Shine'.

The original idea for *Dylan's Park* came from Helen Docherty's dad, Gareth Thomas, who was born and raised in Port Talbot – not so far from the ugly, lovely town that was, and still is, Swansea. All the wonderful words in this book belong to Dylan Thomas.

If you visit Cwmdonkin Park today, you will find it full of children playing games and climbing trees, just as Dylan and his friends did a hundred years ago.

Dylan's Park

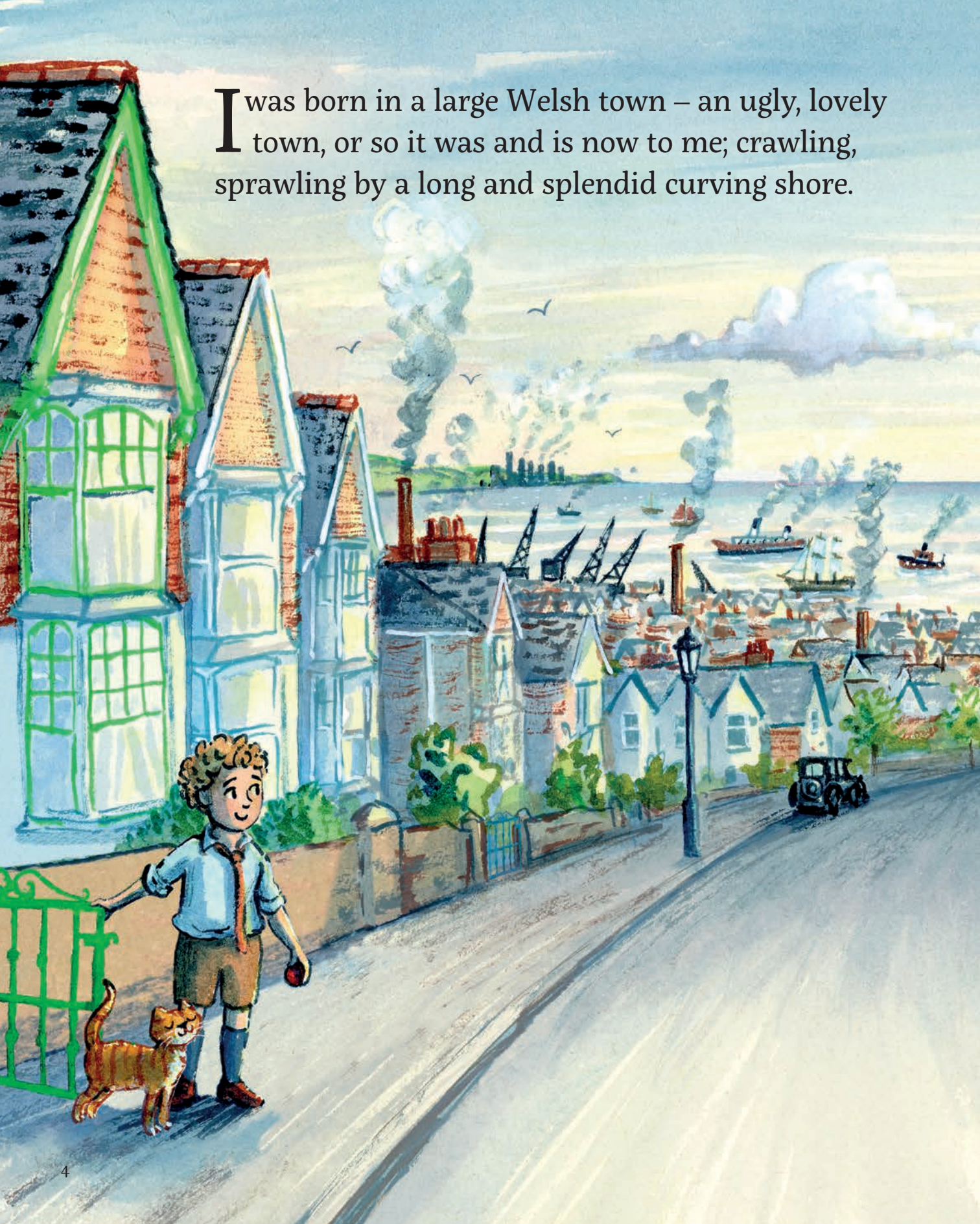
Dylan Thomas

Edited by Helen Docherty
Illustrated by Thomas Docherty

From an original idea by Gareth Thomas



GRAFFEG



I was born in a large Welsh town – an ugly, lovely town, or so it was and is now to me; crawling, sprawling by a long and splendid curving shore.



This sea-town was my world;
outside a strange Wales moved about
its business, which was none of mine.



Quite near where I lived there was a park, and the park itself was a world within the world of the sea town.

On summer evenings I could listen in my bed to the voices of older children playing ball on the sloping paper-littered bank.





The park was full of terrors and treasures.

Though it was only a little park, it held within its borders of old tall trees, notched with our names and shabby from our climbing, as many secret places, caverns and forests, prairies and deserts, as a country somewhere at the end of the sea.



Helen and Thomas Docherty

Helen and Thomas Docherty, award-winning picture-book authors and illustrator, are married and live in Swansea with their two daughters, who spent a lot of time playing in Cwmdonkin Park when they were younger. Helen and Thomas's books have been published all around the world, adapted for the stage and featured on CBeebies Bedtime Stories. Their books together include *The Snatchabook*, *The Knight Who Wouldn't Fight* and *Superwolf*.

Helen and Thomas both love visiting schools and helping children write their own stories and draw their own pictures.

Talking Points

- Do you have a park near you where you go to play with your friends?
- What kind of games do you play there? Do you imagine other worlds, like Dylan did?
- Which feat of daring or endurance would YOU have chosen? Why?
- How do you think Dylan feels when he hears the park keeper talking about his childhood self?
- What do you think Dylan means when he says: 'The ball I threw while playing in the park has not yet reached the ground'?
- Dylan and his friends played in their local park a hundred years ago. What has changed since then, and what's the same?



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Helen Docherty and Thomas Docherty are hereby identified as the author and illustrator of this work in accordance with section 77 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

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Dylan's Park

Dylan Thomas

A boyhood adventure like no other, Dylan Thomas's recollections of Cwmdonkin Park, Swansea bring to life the very essence of what it is to have a child's imagination.

Edited by Helen Docherty, this picture book combines extracts from Thomas's work with original illustrations by Thomas Docherty.



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