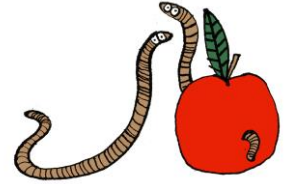




THE  
**PIED PIPER**  
 THEATRE COMPANY



Patron: Dame Julie Walters

# Robin's Winter Adventure



## Early Years Education Pack

With thanks to The Betty Riseley Trust





Dear Early Years Practitioners,

We have designed this pack to support and extend learning around your performance of *Robin's Winter Adventure*.

As preparation for the performance, and to help stimulate further work we encourage you to look at the illustrated story of the play which you will find alongside this pack under '[Teacher Resources](#)' on our website. Here you can also find an audio version of the story, a trailer, songs, and images to share with your class.

At Pied Piper Theatre Company we strive to provide a consistent source of creativity to enhance children's lives and to provide them with a safe framework where they can address their fears caused by uncertainty in the real world. The response of the characters in *Robin's Winter Adventure* to the dilemmas they face are a rich source for activities to help pupils to articulate the hopes and fears that they face in current times.

The activities which follow should be seen as open ended – allowing children to take their learning and play in new directions as they respond to the stimuli of the story.

A separate KS1 pack is also available to download from [piedpipertheatre.co.uk](http://piedpipertheatre.co.uk)

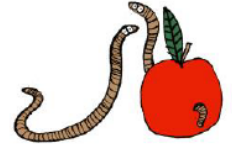
We hope that this pack provides a useful jumping off point; we'd love to see where it takes you.

Please do share any feedback with us at [nicola@piedpipertheatre.co.uk](mailto:nicola@piedpipertheatre.co.uk)

Caroline Herlihy and Nicola Sangster

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## Communication and Language; Literacy

### *Robin's Winter Adventure Story Folder*

A simple folder can be created to send home with and a printed out story of the play and key words sheet.

Other linked books could be included e.g.

- *Birds to Spot* (Usborne Minis) – a simple illustrated guide to common UK garden birds
- *Coming Home* by Michael Morpurgo – a story beautifully illustrated by Kerry Hyndman that teaches about robin migration
- *Moving Molly* by Shirley Hughes
- *My New Home* by Marta Altés

For children for whom English is their second language, include translations of key words in the child's home language in the story folder. (You can find translations on google translate. This may seem time consuming but is essential for EAL children to connect with the story.)

#### ***Robin's Winter Adventure Key Words and Concepts:***

Robin  
Winter  
Moving  
Adventure  
Poem  
London

### **Poetry with Joseph Coelho**

Poet Joseph Coelho co-wrote Robin's Winter Adventure.

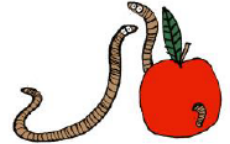
Many of his poetry anthologies are perfect for reading aloud and details can be found on the BookTrust website [here](#).

Joseph's book *Luna Loves Library Day*, illustrated by Fiona Lumbers, was one of the books chosen for World Book Day 2021 by BookTrust and is perfect to share with 3-6 year olds.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/l/luna-loves-library-day/>

To find out more about Joseph's work visit [www.thepoetryofjosephcoelho.com](http://www.thepoetryofjosephcoelho.com)

For an author visit from Joseph please contact [info@authorsalouduk.co.uk](mailto:info@authorsalouduk.co.uk)



## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

### Moving

The theme of moving makes a relevant discussion topic for Early Years:

- What did Robin feel about moving?
- How did he feel about changing schools?
- Who in the group has moved house?
- How do they feel about moving to infant school?

### Moving House Drama Game

Each child imagines they are driving a removal van.  
They must follow instructions: left, right, stop, go.

Set up London and Little Fressingham (or 'old house' and 'new house') on opposite sides of the hall.  
When the relevant word is called all the vans need to drive to their destination as quickly as they can.

What sounds do the vans make as they start, stop and drive?  
Do the vans have a special sound for reversing?

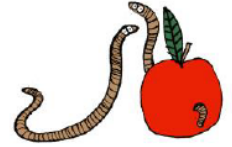
### Zoom role play area

Set up a *Robin's Winter Adventure* role play area to encourage children to immerse themselves in the story world.

By involving the children in setting up the role play area, and listening to their suggestions they are more likely to engage with the activity. Photograph the area as it develops and children playing within the area.

Resources: Moving boxes and summer and winter clothes / toys to divide between them, pots, spades, 'soil', 'plants' and 'seeds' (real or pretend depending on outdoor/indoor play), notebooks and pens.

The role of the adult is to observe how children engage, noting language, interaction, negotiation, co-operation, sharing, turn-taking and to model emotional coaching and sustained shared thinking to reflect on and develop ideas.



## Understanding the World

### Robins

Why not create a space outside with a nut hanger for birds and a bird bath, and see if you can spot a robin. Collect and display in the classroom found feathers, or any found empty eggs (never from nests!).

### Bird Spotting

Looking at robins could lead to a class 'bird spot', at school or home - why not create a class tally chart using cut out bird shapes to record the birds you spot. Pupils could also draw, paint or model the birds they spot.

The RSPB website contains details of how to participate in their annual ['Big Schools Birdwatch'](#), either at home or in setting.

### Different Homes

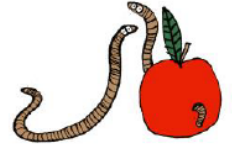
In the play Robin moves from a house to a flat. Birds live in different homes altogether...

- What sort of homes do the children live in?
- What about birds?
- Pets?
- Animals in the wild?

CBeebies 'Our Planet' has a short video which looks at ['Different Types of Animal Homes'](#).

Why do different homes suit different people / animals / birds?





## Robin Music

Robin's Winter Adventure contains original music by Julian Butler, with lyrics by Tina Williams with Joseph Coelho. You can listen to the songs from the show on our website, and find sheet music for the Wiggly Worm song: [here](#)

Why not enjoy pretending to be birds, moving around to classical music where birds are represented by different instruments of the orchestra... (a perfect introduction to those instruments)

<https://www.squiltmusic.com/blogs/news/classical-music-inspired-by-birds>

Has a great selection with teaching suggestions and a free printable.

You can listen to different birds singing on the [RSPB](#) website.

Can the children mimic any of the sounds?

Can the class work together to create a garden soundscape, mimicking the noises you might hear and introducing them one by one? (e.g. gentle rain, different birds, wind blowing, a dog or cat etc.)

## Expressive Arts and Design

### Model Houses

Can children build their own house, a dream house, a scale house for a favourite toy figure out of junk materials?

Why not use building bricks to build a variety of height towers, how do they compare?

Why not draw a picture to record the different towers and their different heights?

### Feathers

Design and make collage birds using feathers (bought or found). Try painting with feathers; using the plume end and also the quill end – can you make it into a pen for writing?

The [Fun Activities](#) page on our website includes a colouring page to print out.

We hope that your class will be inspired to create around the themes of *Robin's Winter Adventure* and we would love to see the results.

Please email [nicola@piedpipertheatre.co.uk](mailto:nicola@piedpipertheatre.co.uk) with photos of your masterpieces or tweet them to us @PiedPiperLive