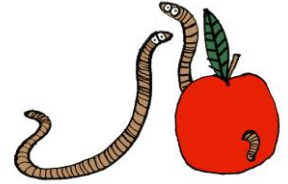




THE
PIED PIPER
THEATRE COMPANY



Patron: Dame Julie Walters

Robin's Winter Adventure



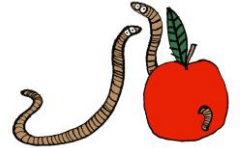
Education Pack

With thanks to The Betty Riseley Trust



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**





Introduction

Welcome to the Education Pack for *Robin's Winter Adventure*.

At Pied Piper Theatre Company we strive to provide a consistent source of creativity to enhance children's lives, and 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 discussion and debate, enabling pupils to articulate the hopes and fears that they face in current times.

Divided into Curriculum Areas, the activities in this pack are appropriate for EYFS to end of KS1 pupils (and can be extended to lower KS2). They provide contexts for learning which can be adapted to suit the learning stages of different ages of pupils.

A separate EYFS pack is also available to download from piedpipertheatre.co.uk

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.

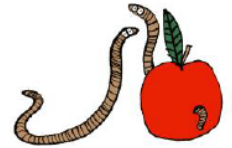
As preparation for the performance, or as a reminder to help stimulate further work we encourage you to look at the '[Teacher Resources](#)' section of our website where you will find a trailer, recordings of songs and images from the show. There are also illustrated and audio versions of the story of the play to share with your class.

We hope that this pack provides a useful jumping off point and welcome your feedback via nicola@piedpipertheatre.co.uk

Caroline Herlihy and Nicola Sangster

Contents:

Drama and English	3
Science	5
Geography	7
Art and Design Technology	9
History	10
Maths	11



Drama and English Ideas

Robin's Winter Adventure explores how to manage and adapt to change. The challenges the characters face provide a rich source for drama activities. Workshopping the challenges Robin and family can help pupils give expression and voice to their own, personal challenges.

Drama Game: The Corridor of Choice

Divide the class in two, and sit in two lines facing one another.

One side is for going to London, one is for staying where they are.

A child chosen to be Robin walks along the middle of the 'corridor' and listens each child 'persuade' them in turn, alternating between sides.

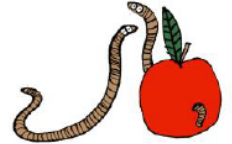
Once 'Robin' has reached the end of the line, they must declare their choice and explain why. Which arguments were the most persuasive?

Drama Game: Hot Seating

Have children take turns to 'take the seat' as the three main characters in the play; Robin, Mum, Dad.

The 'audience' then interview each character to find out their views on the move to London:

- What are their fears?
- What are they looking forward to?
- What will they miss?



Writing Poetry with Joseph Coelho

Poet Joseph Coelho co-wrote Robin's Winter Adventure with Tina Williams. Joseph presents several brilliant, short videos to share with your class to help fire up creativity on the BBC Teach youtube channel. All are suitable for KS1 and KS2. Click on the titles below to follow the links.

Link: How to write fun poetry

Here Joseph explains how poetry can be fun and accessible. Exploring onomatopoeia and phonics, he demonstrates how words can be fun to say and combined to make interesting rhythms and funny poems.

Link: How to write poetry about feelings

Here Joseph investigates how poetry can be used to express emotions and feelings. He explores the nuances of emotions and how we identify them in the written form, considering the ways language is used in poetry to affect the reader or engage their attention.

Link: How to perform poetry

At the heart of Robin's Winter Adventure is a love of performing a sharing poetry. In this clip Joseph discusses how techniques used to enhance the performance of poetry, such as intonation, tone, tempo, and volume, can be employed effectively to develop meaning for the listener.

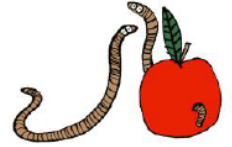
To find out more about Joseph's work visit www.thepoetryofjosephcoelho.com where you can download free poetry resources based on his books and find more links to his BBC Teach series.

For an author visit from Joseph please contact info@authorsalouduk.co.uk

We hope that your class will be inspired to write their own poems just like Robin, and we would love to see them. Please email copies of your masterpieces to nicola@piedpipertheatre.co.uk

See our website for the printable worksheets:

Rhyming Pairs
Winter Adventure Poem (KS1 and 2)
Jack Frost (KS2)



Science

Finding out more about robins is a fantastic way for pupils to 'experience and observe phenomena, looking more closely at the natural and humanly-constructed world around them' (KS1) and to 'enable pupils to broaden their scientific view of the world around them' (KS2).

Find Out More About Robins

The RSPB website is a great place to start learning about Robins, and can open up a discussion about why we need to protect our wildlife. There are details of the Latin name and bird family, pictures, food etc. and a recording of a robin song [here](#).

- What do they look like – what are their special markings and colours?
- Where do Robins live?
- What do they like to eat?
- What do Robins sound like?

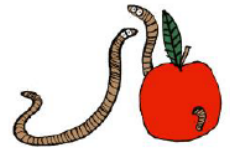
Classification

Animals can be divided into groups or 'classified' by looking at the similarities and differences between them. Key Stage 2 work could introduce the concept of classification:

- What makes Robins distinct from other birds?
- What makes birds distinct from other animals?
- How do we classify animals?

BBC Bitesize have a short video and quiz explaining classification [here](#).





Bird Spotting

This activity could lead to a class 'bird spot', at school or home - why not create a bar chart to express the number of different birds seen by the class.

Pupils could make and illustrate their own bird spotting book.

The RSPB website also contains details and help to participate in their annual 'Big Schools Birdwatch', and BBC Teach has a KS2 based around 'The Big Schools Winterwatch' [here](#). Covering key curriculum objectives across English, maths and science, the lesson delves into the key features of a 'how-to' guide, working scientifically using classification keys and how to present data using bar graphs (see **Maths** below).

Habitats

The theme of moving provides a great launchpad to learn about where we live and why.

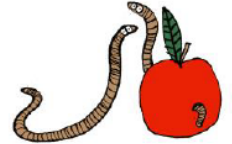
In the play Robin moves from a house to a flat. Birds live in different homes altogether...

- 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](#)'.

[BBC Bitesize](#) has information about various habitats: polar, ocean, woodland, urban, rainforest, desert, coastal and pond.

- What different creatures live in each habitat?
- Why do different habitats suit different creatures?



Geography

The themes of moving, travel and London are a great leaping off point for activities which meet the aims in Geography:

KS1 - name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom.

KS2 - name and locate cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, including hills, mountains, cities, rivers, key topographical features and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time.

Bird's Eye View

Robin literally has a bird's eye view!

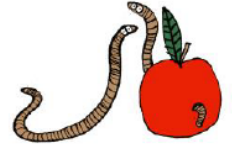
Imagine you were on the London Eye looking down from a great height – what do things look like when viewed from above?

Can you draw a bird's eye view of a table, cake, glass, chair, etc.?

How might buildings and physical features look from above? (Using Lego models may help.)

This is the start of map making.





Landmarks

Find out more about London:

The YouTube video '[Kids View: What to do in London](#)' is a short film where local children introduce some of the key landmarks in London.

[Kidstravelbooks.com](#) has a free to download set of activities to help children learn about London.

[Tripindicator.com](#) provides a map of London landmarks that can be shown on an interactive whiteboard. There are also a range of different styles of maps to download and use a resource with children to inspire their own map-making.

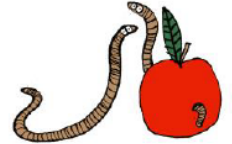
- Use our 'London Landmarks' printable worksheet to add London landmarks to the map.
- Can you create a similar map of your own local landmarks – your town / village / school grounds?
- Make a poster or write a visitor guide to encourage people to go to London (this may have helped Robin!).

To extend, KS2 children could write a Tourist Guide to accompany the London Landmarks Map. A range of guides from different places and tourist attractions will help children gain a good idea of the genre.

Compare London and your own locality - what is good about living in each place, what might be difficult?

See our website for the printable worksheet:

London Landmarks



Art and Design Technology

Nests

Find out about robins' nests. Design (and KS2 make) a nesting box and or a bird feeder.

Flying Birds

Design and make a model bird with flapping wings - think about how you can make the wings flap. Or use the printable worksheet: Make a Flying Robin.

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?

Tate Modern's website has a valuable collage activity [here](#) (click under 'EXPLORE'). Use Tony Cragg's idea of making a collage from paper/old magazines in the shape of a bird, a building....

History of Art

Many famous artists have painted landscapes of London. Find images of the following works online to inspire children to create landscapes of their own local environment. Try giving the children a viewfinder (easily made from four strips of card) so that they can focus in on a particular aspect of what they can see.

The Thames and the City, Canaletto

London from Greenwich Park, JMW Turner

The Houses of Parliament, Claude Monet

Charing Cross Bridge, Camille Pissarro

Piccadilly Circus, George Hyde Powell

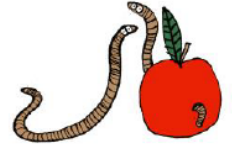
A View of London Showing St Paul's and Canon Street Station from Southwark Bridge, John Crowther

Charing Cross Bridge, Andre Derain

These paintings are also a rich historical resource showing how London has changed over the centuries. It might be interesting to compare and contrast the paintings with current photographs (from Google Earth).

See our website for the printable worksheet:

Make a Flying Robin



History

Robin's Winter Adventure mentions some of the key historical events linked to the landmarks in London.

Why not find out more about:

- The Houses of Parliament and the Gunpowder Plot
- The history of the Tower of London

Find out about the rhymes that tell you more about the history of London:

- Ring a Ring a Roses - the great plague
- Oranges and Lemons - churches in London
- The Muffin Man (and other rhymes linked to street traders)
- London Bridge is falling down - history of London Bridge
- London's Burning – the Great Fire of London

[The Hamilton Trust](#) have a fantastic set of cross-curricular resources for teaching KS1 about the Great Fire of London. These include finding out about London in the 1660's, information on the songs and rhymes above, and diary and newspaper reporting activities.

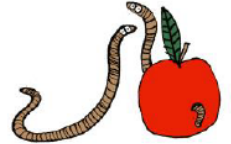
BBC Teach has material for teaching KS1 about the Great Fire of London [here](#); including short animations.

For KS2 there is a history of London timeline and accompanying worksheet on twinkl, [here](#).

UK Parliament has information about the history of the Houses of Parliament for teachers [here](#); and a 3 minute video which shows the entire history of the Houses [here](#).

BBC Bitesize has materials for KS2 on Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot [here](#).





Maths

Tall Towers

Robin flies over towers and tall buildings in London. In teams see who can make the tallest tower. Try and compare different materials - Lego, Multilink or Unifix cubes, or tightly rolled up sticks of newspaper.

The tower must be stable - who can make the tallest tower with the smallest base?

What shapes help to make the tower strong?

KS2 could extend the activity: measure and compare the area of the base and the height of the towers.

The Greedy Bird

The image of a bird's beak can be used to help children understand the concept of equality and inequality. Print and use 'The Greedy Bird' worksheet for children to draw on the bird's beaks – he opens his beak towards the greater number $<$, but if he is facing the lesser number he snaps it shut $>$.

A similar activity can be done using homemade card birds, either with moveable beaks (made from a pipe cleaner, or two strips of card secured with a paper fastener) or double sided so that the bird is 'flipped' to always face his open beak toward the greater number. Arrange unit cubes into rods of unequal amounts for the bird to choose between.

Bird Spotting

See Science: Bird Spotting, above.

Recording the results of your class birdwatch allows an exploration of presenting data; using bar graphs, line graphs, tally charts and pie charts. BBC Bitesize has clips for KS2 on tables, graphs and charts [here](#), and you can download a free Birdwatch Counting printable from twinkl [here](#).