



Activity title:	Whole School Assembly (KS2)
Description:	Theme of Childhood Memories
Year groups:	Whole school
Dylan Thomas Text:	A Child's Christmas in Wales
Equipment required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A tray with 10-12 objects on and a cloth to cover them.• Possibly the quote (below) up on the Whiteboard?
Suggested procedure:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a tray with 10 or 12 objects on there. Hold each one up in turn, then cover and ask individual children what they can remember from the tray.• Explain that as an adult your memory becomes hazy! We have lots of things that help us remember things these days...a diary, notes on your phone, lists...but a favourite way of remembering the past is through photos or diaries/memoirs.• Share a childhood memory of your own with the group.• Much of Dylan Thomas' work is based around his childhood memories, he was able to write many of them down and so we are lucky enough to be able to share them.• Share quote: <i>"One Christmas was so much like another, in those years around the sea-town corner now and out of all sound except the distant speaking of the voices I sometimes hear a moment before sleep, that I can never remember whether it snowed for six days and six nights when I was twelve or whether it snowed for twelve days and twelve nights when I was six."</i> — Dylan Thomas, A Child's Christmas in Wales• Why is it important to share memories with people? We can learn a lot about the past from these memories. Ask your parents and grandparents about a favourite event that they remember from their childhood. Have they written these memories down somewhere?• Sometimes though it's good to have a short memory! When might this be the case? If we are upset about something or have had an argument with somebody. Sometimes it is good to be able to forgive and forget.•



Extension activities:	Looking at further quotes about DT's Childhood in Wales, e.g. "It snowed last year too: I made a snowman and my brother knocked it down and I knocked my brother down and then we had tea." — Dylan Thomas, <i>A Child's Christmas in Wales</i> Memories of family relationships, why do we remember some things but not others?
Relevant links:	Remembrance Sunday. What do we remember on this day and why? Religious link: Christians believe that God forgives and forgets. Wiping the board clean. The Bible encourages Christians not to forget what God has done for them.
Prayer:	Dear God, Thank you for all the memories that our friends, families, special events and places give us. Help us to remember these happy times and learn to forget those memories that might not be so happy. Please help us to also do things for other people that make them smile when they think of what we have done. Amen.

** These assembly ideas are also suitable to be used in lessons*