



KEY STAGE 3 ASSEMBLY

THEME: CHRISTMAS

PRESENTATION

For this assembly, some 6 speakers will be needed, but the exact number can vary according to how many pupils are available to take part. So, the script is just a suggestion as to how the assembly could be presented – more or fewer speakers could take part, joining or dividing up the passages as required.

MUSICAL ELEMENT

Every school will undoubtedly have its own way of incorporating music into an assembly or morning gathering. If it is customary to select a hymn from a school hymn sheet, then one could be chosen on the theme of **love for family and fellow man/a carol**. Or a musical item could be presented through performance or recording, according to the teacher or pupils' choice. There is another option within the script if downloading from the internet is a possibility.

- Speaker 1: It's getting near to that time of year when celebrating Christmas is in the air. We start hearing festive music being played, carols and old favourites. There are secrets around as people start doing their shopping for others. It is an exciting time, especially if there are young children at home. Some families will have been preparing for weeks, others waiting for the end of term for that relaxing time.
- Speaker 2: A hundred years ago this year, a boy was born in Swansea called Dylan Thomas – you've probably heard of him by now because it's been a year of celebrating his birth. He became a world famous poet, and as a man he wrote a short story called 'A Child's Christmas in Wales,' drawing on his memories of family celebrations as he grew up. The story describes the fun and chaos of Christmas in the snowy days of his childhood winters. When you read it, it's clear that the most important thing for Dylan Thomas was his family and friends. He *does* describe receiving presents – though they were nothing very lavish – but mainly his memories are about the people who shared the day with him, or who fell asleep after enjoying their big lunch.
- Speaker 3: His family was important to Dylan Thomas, and he was very happy in the company of his aunts and uncles. Their company made the holiday a special one for him. They would surely have gathered round the piano and sung carols as well as having snowball fights. But we must remember that not all people share in the delight of Christmas. Many people have other religions and choose to celebrate other important festivals. Some people feel the loneliness of being



away from family or friends. Others find it hard to make ends meet, and so Christmas brings its worries.

- Speaker 4: Do you share in such worries? Are there things we can do to ensure that Christmas is a time for good memories? We cannot make Christmas perfect for everybody, but here are some simple ideas. What about making sure you offer to help make Christmas a good time for others in your home instead of expecting others to make it a good time for you? Offer some willing help in a busy house with a smile on your face – even though you might not really enjoy peeling endless potatoes or wrapping the presents.
- Speaker 5: What about making presents instead of buying? It shows you have really thought about the person, instead of choosing to buy at the last minute. The thinking is more valuable than anything.
- Speaker 6: Be cheerful over Christmas! Don't be greedy for gifts or grumpy if you don't get expensive presents. It's all just stuff. Give thanks with a smile for everything – even if your heart sinks a little deeper as you open your third pair of bright socks.
- Speaker 1: Lastly, look after the older members of your family. Grandmas and Grandpas, old aunts and uncles love being in the company of kind and cheerful young people. Make some warm and happy memories for them, like the ones Dylan Thomas had in his childhood – even though you might need patience at times!

The singer songwriter Al Lewis has used the story 'A Child's Christmas in Wales' to inspire a new song. Listen to his words, and as you look at this video, you'll see that much of it has been filmed inside Dylan Thomas home in Cwmdonkin Drive, Swansea.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tqUx_LgJGJo

NOTE:	If this link cannot be used, the speaker could introduce a carol to be sung by all, or a pupil / pupils could perform a seasonal song.
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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

- Speaker 2: Christmas is a beautiful time of the year for many reasons – there is light everywhere, and faces and decorations illuminate. It is colourful and warm and a chance to share happiness. Let us see to the little things which make the best memories of all – chatting, sharing, smiling, laughing, giving and receiving with love. We can't measure happiness through expensive gifts, but through words and kind gestures which bring simple pleasure. We hope we can make this Christmas a lovely time for our family, our friends and neighbours, and so make it again this year a time to remember.