



## KEY STAGE 3 ASSEMBLY

### THEME: COMMUNITY

#### 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 **belonging/ being part of a community/ love for one's country**. Or a musical item could be presented through performance or recording, according to the teacher or pupils' choice.

Speaker 1: As you walked in through the school gates this morning, what went through your mind? Perhaps you enjoyed the feeling of being back here this morning again in a familiar community with your friends. Or perhaps you felt worried about how you would be treated by people around you. Perhaps you've had enough of the old familiar routine. Or perhaps you love being surrounded by all the different characters here, with their stories and energy.

Speaker 2: That's how it is in every community. There are always two sides – the happy, enjoyable side and a more negative side. Whether you're satisfied or dissatisfied with it, that will depend a lot on your personality as well as on the community itself. The word 'community' is important in the life we lead, and this is our theme for today. To how many communities do you belong? Your form, your year, your school and family of course, but your place of worship perhaps, your village or area, social groups, and your country too.

Speaker 3: A famous poet from north Wales, called T.H.Parry Williams, wrote a Welsh poem once which asked a question to start. He asked, 'What do I care for Wales? It's nothing more than accident or chance that I happen to live here...' But by the end of his poem, he confesses that he cannot break free from his country. He said, 'But I hear Wales reaching out to clutch at my heart, and I cannot escape.'

Our community is a part of us. As it said in the advert – 'You can take the boy out of Wales, but you cannot take Wales out of the boy.'

Speaker 4: One very famous man who carried the influence of his community with him throughout his short life was Dylan Thomas, from Swansea. This



# DYLAN THOMAS

ROCK AND ROLL POET - KS3

year we celebrate his centenary. He was born in 1914, and he died in New York in 1953, aged 39 years old. During his short life he wrote some of the greatest literature of the twentieth century. His relationship with Swansea, his birth town, was complex. He called the place 'The ugly, lovely town.' Apparently he once said 'The land of my fathers?... well, my fathers can keep it.' He wanted to make his mark in London and America. And yet he kept on returning to his roots in Swansea and west Wales, either on holiday or to live.

Speaker 5: In his writing and his poetry, it's easy to see how the city of Swansea, and his family and the locals, had a huge influence on him. He also loved being in Carmarthenshire and around the Laugharne area. This was his inspiration, and though he travelled far from Wales during his lifetime, Wales was always there in his creative work. He wrote about its characters, the area, the buildings and the everyday life of its people. He could not break free. Listen to the poet's famous voice talking about his community.

([http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ce\\_qzuBPQpc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ce_qzuBPQpc) – Dylan Thomas Reminiscences of Childhood. It can be listened to up until 2.10 'the Front...to which only young men travelled.')

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Speaker 6: At the start of this new day of being a part of the community of this school, we appreciate the chance to enjoy the company of the people around us, and the opportunity to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. We ask for the ability to be mindful of other people and to appreciate the variety of our society. We ask to feel gratitude for our environment, which is a part of the fabric of our life's memories. When we leave this community and go out into the wide world, let us hope that we will carry with us a little of our community – the best parts – so that it continues to enrich us throughout our lives.

And lastly, we ask to see the best side in our communities always – in our homes, our school, our areas and our country. We are grateful for them.