



KEY STAGE 3 ASSEMBLY

THEME: LOVE

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/care for mankind/goodness**. 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: How would you define the word 'love', which is our theme today? There are so many different kinds of love to be had in the world. Romantic love is one kind, or the passion between people in love. Then there is brotherly love, which is the love between friends and fellow-man. There is also paternal or maternal love between parents and their children. According to one definition, love is being willing to allow the people you love to be themselves, without insisting that they satisfy you. For people who have a religious belief, the god of creation is the god of love.

Speaker 2: Dylan Thomas, the famous poet from Swansea, wrote a radio play called 'Under Milk Wood'. In it, one of the characters offers up a prayer at the end of the day. His name is the Reverend Eli Jenkins, a minister who addresses God in this prayer as if he's talking to a friend. He asks God to keep his loving eye on the people of the village all night, and keep them safe till the morning.

Speaker 3: The Reverend Eli Jenkins knows that the people of Llareggub village aren't all good through and through, but he prays that God will see everybody's best side. In this play, that is what Dylan Thomas does too, as the creator of the characters. He presents us with a whole village full of people of all kinds – husbands and wives, good and bad, lovers and friends. He doesn't judge them for their misbehaving. He loves them despite all their faults. Here is a part of the play which presents us with some of those faults, but which is also quite humorous:



NOTE The speakers will now have to play these parts, or an extra group of pupils take part.

LILY: *(looking in the mirror)*
Look at your complexion!
Oh no, *you* look.
Needs a bit of make up.
Needs a veil.
Oh, there's glamour!

Where you get that smile, Lil?
Never you mind girl.
Nobody loves you.
That's what *you* think.

Who is it loves you?
Shan't tell.
Come on Lily.
Cross your heart then?
Cross my heart.

MRS BEYNON: *(loudly from the bedroom)* Lily!

LILY: *(loudly)* Yes, mum.

MRS BEYNON: Where's my tea, girl?

LILY: *(Quietly)* Where d'you think? In the cat box?
(Loudly) Coming up, mum.

VOICE: Mr Pugh in the School House opposite, takes up the morning tea to Mrs Pugh and whispers on the stairs.

MR PUGH: Here's your arsenic, dear.
And your weedkiller biscuit.
I've throttled your parakeet.
I've spat in your vases.
I've put cheese in the mousehole.
Here's your...
...nice tea dear.

MRS PUGH: Too much sugar.

MR PUGH: You haven't tasted it yet, dear.

MRS PUGH: Too much milk then. Has Mr Jenkins said his poetry?

MR PUGH: Yes dear.



MRS PUGH: Then it's time to get up.

SPEAKER 4: Let us listen to the words of Eli Jenkins' prayer, asking for a blessing on the town.

(If possible, the following choral version on YouTube can be played, offering images and words <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gt-23idbKBg>. Or a pupil or pupils could sing the 4 verses on the tune of 'Troyte's Chant')

Every morning when I wake
Dear Lord, a little prayer I make,
Oh please to keep thy lovely eye
On all poor creatures born to die.

And every evening at sun-down
I ask a blessing on the town,
For whether we last the night or no
I'm sure is always touch-and-go.

We are not wholly bad or good
Who live our lives under Milk Wood,
And Thou, I know, wilt be the first
To see our best side, not our worst.

O let us see another day!
Bless us all this night, I pray,
And to the sun we all will bow
And say, good-bye - but just for now!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Speaker 5: Love is at the heart of a happy life and happy society. We ask that we love our fellow men and women, wherever they are, and wherever they come from. Our world is so full of conflict of all kinds – some of it close to home, and some of it on distant continents. Let us choose not to take part in the hatred in the world.

We ask for the gift of kindness towards others, and for the ability to forgive faults. Love doesn't think badly of others and criticise them, nor does it make life difficult for others. A heart which is full of love is a good heart. And having a good heart means loving ourselves too, and forgiving ourselves our own faults. None of us are perfect, and all we can do is do our best to live the best life we can. Let us all make room for love, not hatred, in our hearts, now and always.