



## KEY STAGE 3 ASSEMBLY

### THEME: PASSION

#### 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 **conviction/being true to principles/ using one's talents**. 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: Today, the key word in our assembly is **passion**. In order to achieve anything of true worth, you need to have passion for something – to feel strongly about it, to feel dedicated to it. Sports players who are at the top of their game have trained passionately for many years to reach their goal. They also have fans who feel passionately about their teams, to give the support and encouragement to succeed.

Speaker2: Musicians who play on the great stages of the world have put in hours and hours of often tedious practice on their scales and arpeggios, because they love music with a passion. That's what drives them to reach the top. A vet or surgeon has studied for many years to pass difficult exams in order to do what they feel passionately about, which is to relieve suffering and pain. Other people feel passionately for a cause such as Greenpeace, Amnesty International or Macmillan Cancer Support, and are willing to sacrifice time and personal freedom for the good of others.

Speaker 3: No matter in what aspect of life – work or interests, politics or art – having fire in your belly for something makes life interesting and enables you to make a valuable contribution. Perhaps the question which is going through your mind at the moment is this – how can someone like me make that kind of a contribution? I'm not that special to make a mark on the world – my school reports don't seem to be saying that anyway! But listen to the story of one remarkable man from Wales whose name is on people's lips this year especially.



# DYLAN THOMAS

ROCK AND ROLL POET - KS3

- Speaker 4: In 1914, there was a husband and wife called Mr and Mrs Thomas who lived in Cwmdonkin Drive in Swansea. Mr D.J. Thomas was an English teacher, and Mrs Florence Thomas was a seamstress. They had a daughter and a son and the son grew up in time to be somebody quite important. His name was Dylan Thomas – a poet who became famous all over the world for his original and powerful poetic style, and his colourful, skilful storytelling. And this year, in the centenary of his birth, people will be flocking to Wales to visit the places which were so important to him in his short life – because Dylan died fairly young, at 39 years old. But he left behind some of the most famous creative writing in the world.
- Speaker 5: But when he was a schoolboy, he was not that impressive academically. He was a rather weakly child, so he was often off sick and missed days of school. He was quite provocative and liked wasting time in class. He didn't stand out in terms of his ability in general, according to his school reports. He wasn't one to win prizes – except for one unexpected race in primary school. Actually, there wasn't anything very remarkable about him. But this boy had one great passion in his life, and that was a passion for words and writing. Ever since he'd been a small child his father had read to him – nursery rhymes, verses from the Bible, Shakespeare. Dylan fell in love with the sound of words. That became his world.
- Speaker 6: In his spare time he'd be scribbling poems and reading. In the sixth form he spent much of his time editing a magazine for new young writers. That was his real interest. In a few years' time, his name was well-known as one of the most exciting poets of his generation. This year, people will remember him through reading his work – 'A Child's Christmas in Wales', 'Under Milk Wood' and 'Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night', to name only three.
- Speaker 1: His life was quite messy. He was often in debt, and he tended to overdo the wild socialising. But that's not what's important about him, although it was a large part of his life's story. What matters is his passion to compose and create, to put stories and ideas on paper to be shared with others. Other people in turn have been inspired by him to create works of their own – people like composers Daniel Jones and Stravinsky, Bob Dylan and John Cale of the Velvet Underground. The jazz musician Stan Tracey composed an amazing jazz piece to accompany 'Under Milk Wood', the play for voices. This play opens with a description of the still darkness in the village of Llareggub, where nothing moves and all are sleeping heavily. Listen to a few minutes of this piece, which is full of the atmosphere of the night.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=licfYnOmpRs>



# DYLAN THOMAS

ROCK AND ROLL POET - KS3

(A minute and a half to two minutes can be played before fading the volume under the Thought for the Day which follows, if you wish)

**NOTE:**

In this section, if playing the above link is impossible, a few minutes can be taken to enjoy a musical item such as a hymn or item from a pupil, with an appropriate introduction. One possible choice is a part of Benedictus by Karl Jenkins

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dfxOaL0PXvI>), also available in other formats. He too came from Swansea and, like Dylan Thomas, was the son of a teacher – but his father was a music teacher who planted in him a love of music as Dylan’s father planted a passion for words in his son.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Speaker 2: We need passionate people in this world. People who are passionate about justice and human rights. People who are passionate about their art and craft. People who are passionate about the world and our environment. People who are passionate about helping and supporting others. It is so easy to lead a rather relaxed life, without feeling any sense of commitment to anything much. But in each of us there is that grain of passionate conviction. Let us be sure that we experience the contribution each one of us has to give to our society and to the world. We ask for the ability to persevere with developing whatever unique talent lies within us all. Not in order to glorify ourselves or for profit – but to enrich the world in which we live.