

Turtle Song:
As Nature Repairs
Tales of Winter

In week one, we discussed our theme of winter and delved into 'what winter means to us'. We discussed places we like to visit, people we like to see, things we enjoy eating and activities we like to do. We pooled our ideas together forming verses and collectively evoked an encouraging coda to end our song, *Winter's A Time for Memories*, with the hope of spring.

Text taken from the Turtle Song Programme: As nature repairs, Tales of Winter

Winter's a Time for Memories

The smell of the roast evokes the Christmas taste,
Making mince pies with a happy, happy face.
Christmas at Grandma's, chestnuts on the fire,
Winter with family is everyone's desire.

All around me branches bare,
Do whisper in the frosty air.
Winter's a time for memories,
Whilst nature repairs.

Sitting in front of an open, roaring fire,
The warmth of the soup makes me grow so tired.
Snowballs and snowflakes, fog and cold,
Brings back the thoughts of days of old.

All around me branches bare,
Do whisper in the frosty air.
Winter's a time for memories,
Whilst nature repairs.

Instrumental

All around me branches bare,
Do whisper in the frosty air.
Winter's a time for memories,
Whilst nature repairs.

After dancing and sledging and throwing balls of snow,
The crackling, sparking wood keeps the fire aglow.
Cosy and comfy, full of goodwill,
It's dank, dark and cold, but we don't mind the chill.

All around me branches bare,
Do whisper in the frosty air.
Winter's a time for memories,
Whilst nature repairs.

Whether travelling down the ship canal,
Or creating memories with visits from family,
We'll have our fun,
and the light of spring will come again.
Come again.

As Winter Draws In, is a song devised from the poems Winter Time, by Robert Louis Stevenson and Sonnet 97, How Like A Winter Hath My Absence Been, by William Shakespeare. After reading these poems together, we split into two small groups to select words or phrases that meant the most to us. These words now form the basis of our verses. We enjoyed getting creative with our voices and instruments to help write a melody to accompany our words which you will hear in the opening of the song.

As Winter Draws In

Birds sing, birds sing,
Summer's pleasure cheer.
Teeming autumn,
Pleasures of a fleeting year.

All the leaves are turning brown,
Evenings grow dim.
All the leaves are falling down,
Dreading the winter's near.

Summer says goodbye,
As winter draws in.

At morn when I rise,
I bathe and dress by the candle.
December's bareness everywhere,
Found at every angle.

In winter all the singing is summoned,
Carols at our front door.
Glittering snow you will find in abundance,
Robins and reindeers galore.

Summer says goodbye,
As winter draws in.

As winter draws in.

Our next song, The Best Christmas Yet transports us to our dream Christmas holiday destination. Participants and students had fun working together to write their own verse about their dream travels, finding out who they would meet, how they would greet people and what they would eat! This light-hearted song creates the perfect opportunity for us to have a dance, so please feel free to get those feet tapping along!

The Best Christmas Yet

I wanna go to Canada, because I have many relatives there.
The snow will be up to my shoulders, but I don't really care!
I'll meet Aunty Joan, and I'll eat till I groan,
And I'll greet everyone with 'How ya doin?'
I wanna go to Canada, the best Christmas yet!

I wanna go to Scotland, because Blackpool's getting boring.
It's not very far, so I'll go in my car, to see the Loch Ness Monster.
I'll meet a man in a kilt, and I'll drink a hot toddy,
And I'll greet everyone with 'fit like a noo'.
I wanna go to Scotland, the best Christmas yet!

I wanna go to the Arctic, to see the sea lions swim.
I'll say hello to the walruses and maybe the polar bears too.
I'll meet Father Christmas, and I'll eat chicken soup,
And I'll greet everyone with 'Ho Ho Ho'
I wanna go to the Arctic, the best Christmas yet!

Instrumental & Dance Break

I wanna go to Australia, to see my little sister,
She's the youngest of all of us and I've really missed her.
I'll meet Craigy and Lloyd, the big 'Aussie' boys,
And I'll greet everyone with 'G'Day Mate!'
I wanna go to Australia, the best Christmas yet!

I wanna go to Singapore, to meet my granddaughter there.
We'll meet in the orchid gardens and reunite as a pair.
I'll meet Dave, Kay and Evie, and I'll eat Wanton mee,
And I'll greet everyone with 'Ok Lah'.
I wanna go to Singapore, the best Christmas yet!

To end our sharing today, we have the joyous celebration song 'Pass The Cup'. This song transports us to a celebration time with family, sat together around the table. Students and participants created their own verses together, discussing what they would pass round the table and share with loved ones.

Pass the Cup

Pass the cup around the table
Cheers to friends and family
Whether sat on a throne or sat in a stable
Here's a toast to you and me

Pass the roasties
'round the table
Soft in the middle
and crunchy outside

Pass me the turkey
Pour on the gravy
Pass me the stuffing
Be full for a week

Pass the cup around the table
Cheers to friends and family
Whether sat on a throne or sat in a stable
Here's a toast to you and me

A small piece of pudding
Would do me nicely
Pour on the brandy
And load it with cream ("shovel it on")

Pull on a cracker
Put on a hat
Tell a bad joke
And blow ta-doo-dahs!

Pass the cup around the table
Cheers to friends and family
Whether sat on a throne or sat in a stable
Here's a toast to you and me

Embrace the goodwill
Feel the joy
Happy with family
Together again

Letting our love
Feed our hunger
Singing together
And feeling the joy!

Pass the cup around the table
Cheers to friends and family
Whether sat on a throne or sat in a stable
Here's a toast to you and me

Pass the cup around the table
Cheers to friends and family
Whether sat on a throne or sat in a stable
Here's a toast to you, to you, to you, to you, to
you, and me!
Cheers!