



Christmas 'W'rap – 'Twas the night before Christmas Teacher Guide Stage: P6/7

The YMI Team have come up with a fun festive challenge, can you give our Christmas 'W'rap a go?

We have adapted the classic Christmas poem 'A visit from St. Nicholas' and set it to a Hip-hop style rap. You can decide how to make the rap work for your class/school. It could be done as a solo class challenge; it could be split up and shared amongst other classes or smaller groups – be as creative as you like! We would love to have lots of versions of the rap from schools across the city.

How to approach the Christmas 'W'rap challenge

Listen to the [Full Vocal Guide](#) (video with lyrics) - this will give you an idea of what you are aiming for in the final performance.

Read through the poem and discuss the text - set the scene:

On the night of Christmas Eve, a family was settling down to sleep when the father hears noises from outside. Looking out the window, he sees Saint Nicholas in a sleigh pulled by eight reindeer. After landing his sleigh on the roof, Saint Nicholas enters the house down the chimney, carrying a sack of toys. The father watches his visitor fill the stockings hanging by the fireplace, and laughs to himself. Once Saint Nicholas is done, he bounds up the chimney and as he flies away, he wishes a, "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night." This poem was first published anonymously in 1823 and later attributed to Clement Clark Moore who claimed authorship in 1837.

Something to think about... the poem is almost 200 years old; do you think the words are dated? Does the poem use words that we would use nowadays? Also, worth noting, the two reindeer names 'Dunder' and 'Blixen' are in their original Dutch form before being changed in later versions to the familiar German spelling of 'Donder' and 'Blitzen'.

Learn the words:

Listen to the [Call and Response Audio Track](#) - you will hear two lines of the rap recited at a time at a slower speed – listen to the lines and repeat them back (keeping in time with the beat). Practising like this will allow the class to become familiar with the words.

Practise it slowly:

Listen to the [Slow Vocal Guide](#) (video with lyrics) - this will give the class an idea of the overall feel and shape of the rap. Practising it at a slower speed will help the children to keep in time with the beat of the rap. Don't be afraid to break it up into sections, bit by bit like a jigsaw. Make sure you feel confident with each section before moving on to the next.

Try it up to speed:

Have a go at rapping along with the original [Full Vocal Guide](#) (video with lyrics) you listened to, which is up to speed. Can the class keep up? Take it bit by bit, break it up into sections until you feel confident.

Performance:

When the class feel ready to perform the rap all the way through and film their performance, use the [Baking Track Only](#) (video with lyrics).

We can't wait to see you join in and we hope you will share your Christmas 'W'rap video with us on Twitter by tagging [@GlasgowCREATE](#) and using [#CREATEChristmas](#).